

4 killed in Egyptian violence

Cairo (AP) — Four people, including two Western tourists, died Friday night in extremist violence in two Egyptian towns 30 kilometers apart, hospital and police sources said Saturday. In the Red Sea resort of Hurghada, two Germans and French women died and a German man suffered serious burns when an extremist set fire to a small restaurant, police sources said. A doctor at Hurghada hospital said the two victims were middle-aged West Germans and French women but could not provide their names. He identified the German woman's husband as 45-year-old Ted Frenchman, whom he did not identify, suffered superficial burns in the blaze but did not require hospitalization. Five Egyptians also were given first aid treatment, he said. Hurghada is a popular resort overlooking the Red Sea, 530 kilometers southeast of Cairo. It is favoured by many Europeans who charter flights from their countries direct to the resort. The arson attack on the restaurant was the first reported incident of extremist violence at Hurghada.

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Queen Noor opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened at the Royal Cultural Centre an art exhibition by deaf artist Khaled Atiyeh. The four-day exhibition which was organized by Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein Club for the Deaf includes 40 paintings depicting bedouin and the rural life in Jordan. The club's honorary President Fawzi Salameh presented Queen Noor with the club's shield in appreciation for her efforts to promote the arts. The opening ceremony was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Bin Zaid, President of the Royal Society for Fine Arts Her Royal Highness Princess Jordan, the prime minister's wife, several ministers, senior officials, ambassadors and members of Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein Club.

Arafat in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday discussed Arab issues with Sudan's military strongman Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the Sudan News Agency reported. Arafat flew in from Tripoli, Libya, Friday night on a short visit. His one-hour meeting with Bashir included discussions on the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories as well as the results of the Organisation of African Unity summit which ended Wednesday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Before leaving later Saturday, Arafat was scheduled to meet with Arab ambassadors in Khartoum.

No sign of sabotage in U.S. blast

HOUSTON (R) — U.S. government investigators studying an explosion that killed 17 workers at a chemical plant in Houston said Friday they have not found any signs of sabotage despite a claim of responsibility from an Islamic group. The explosion at the Atlantic Richfield Co's Arco chemical plant July 5 destroyed two huge cooling towers and two waste water treatment tanks. "The Osha investigation to date has not turned up any indications of sabotage," a spokesman for the occupational health and safety administration told Reuters. "The investigation is continuing and if there were any evidence of sabotage, Osha will notify the proper authorities," the spokesman said.

Bhutto meets Algerian leader

ALGIERS (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, seeking Islamic support for her country's dispute with India over Kashmir, discussed the issue Saturday with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. Algerian radio said Chadli expressed Algeria's "constant readiness to support Islamic countries." Pakistan wants Kashmiris to be allowed to choose in a referendum whether they should join India or Pakistan. Bhutto is canvassing support before Islamic foreign ministers meet in Cairo July 30.

Pakistan, Iran sign border agreement

QUETTA (R) — Pakistan and Iran have agreed to promote cooperation between law enforcement officials on their border. The chief secretary of Pakistan's Baluchistan province and his Iranian counterpart signed an agreement providing for joint border control posts, coordinated patrols and legal cooperation.

France: No cut in nuclear arsenal

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand said Saturday France would not reduce its nuclear forces for the time being but was contemplating withdrawing its troops from West Germany. "I will absolutely not reduce our nuclear potential... because there is no real reduction of the nuclear potential of either the United States or the Soviet Union," Mitterrand said in a Bastille Day television interview. The interview followed the traditional July 14 national day parade on Paris' Champs Elysees Avenue in which 7,000 troops took part.

Moves to heal inter-Arab rifts seen high on Syrian leader's talks in Egypt

Assad, Mubarak meet in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad arrived Saturday for an official visit, taking his recent rapprochement with Egypt another step forward.

The three-day visit was Assad's first in more than 13 years and his fourth summit this year with President Hosni Mubarak after their two countries resumed diplomatic ties last December.

It came amid indications of intensified efforts by Mubarak to patch up Syria's rifts with Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The two quarrels and Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war, in which Syria has been embroiled militarily and politically, are the most burning issues in inter-Arab relations.

Mubarak and Assad embraced and kissed after the Syrian leader's plane landed at Al Nuzha airport on the southern outskirts of Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city and principal summer resort.

Assad and Mubarak conferred for three hours immediately after they drove from the airport to Ras Al Tin palace, where the Syrian leader is staying.

Egyptian Information Minister Saif Al Sherif told reporters that the two leaders discussed Arab problems and bilateral relations. He gave no details.

Diplomats said plans for an Arab summit in Cairo later this year and strengthening of relations were likely to be the focus of three days of discussions.

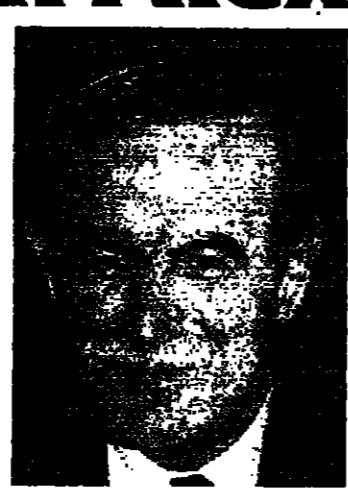
Assad, a staunch opponent of compromise with Israel, was unlikely to see eye to eye with his host's commitment to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict through U.S.-sponsored dialogue.

"I think Egypt is disappointed that its close ties with the United States haven't delivered substantive steps in the peace process in time for this meeting," said one Arab envoy.

"Both Cairo and Washington realise that no peace proposals will get anywhere without tacit support from Assad."

Mubarak, working closely with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, has tried to bring Israelis and Palestinians together in Cairo for peace talks.

But the formation of the most rightwing government in Israel's history appears to have stalled the peace process indefinitely, Cairo-based diplomats said.



Hafez Al Assad



Hosni Mubarak

No reason has been given for choosing Alexandria as the venue for the talks. But some diplomats speculated it was because Assad might be still unwilling to visit the only Arab capital were Israel has an embassy.

Egyptian officials said Assad and Mubarak have an open agenda embracing international, inter-Arab and bilateral subjects.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mubarak is anxious to heal inter-Arab rifts or at least achieve enough progress before the next Arab summit he will host in Cairo in November.

Ibrahim Nafei, editor of the leading state-owned newspaper Al Ahram and a Mubarak confidant, appeared to reflect the president's feeling in a frontpage article Saturday. He suggested that Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers meet in Cairo for reconciliation talks.

"The political climate is fully congenial now, more than ever before, for achieving a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement," Nafei said.

Egypt's national news agency MENA Friday quoted Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar as saying his country's 20-year rift with Iraq would be healed eventually.

Egyptian media indicate Mubarak may try to mediate in a dispute between Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that goes back to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

A Cairo-based PLO source told Reuters Saturday that Assad was amenable to Egyptian mediation, but a breakthrough would hinge on Assad's willingness to free Palestinians in Syrian prisons and release confiscated PLO

funds and arms.

Assad boycotted an Arab summit last May because it was held in Baghdad. Egyptian officials believe both the Syrian leader and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will come to the Cairo summit in November even if they have not buried the hatchet by then.

The Cairo weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Yom reproached Assad that Assad will discuss with Mubarak Syrian efforts to improve Egypt's strained relations with Iran.

Iran severed diplomatic ties with Cairo in 1979 to protest the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The chill was worsened by Egypt's military aid to Iraq in the war with Iran. Iran presently holds prisoner an undisclosed number of Egyptians caught during the war.

Akhbar Al Yom said Assad was aiming for a diplomatic resumption between Egypt and Iran, release of the Egyptian prisoners and meetings in Damascus between Iranian and Egyptian officials.

Mubarak and Assad first met this year at Tobruk, Libya, during celebrations marking the anniversary of withdrawal of British troops from a base there.

Mubarak visited Damascus May 2-3 and again on May 30 on his way home from the Baghdad summit.

During the Damascus talks, Mubarak said Assad was ready to receive Arafat in Syria to settle their differences centring mainly on how to approach Arab-Israeli peace.

Low-level Syrian-PLO talks have been held, but Arafat, whom Syria expelled in 1983, has not announced any plan yet to visit Damascus.

"In the course of our discussions of arms control and manpower levels, the German question was of course mentioned," Woerner said.

"Today we did not discuss German membership in NATO... since my Soviet partners did not raise the issue I saw no reason to raise it."

He said he thought the Western view that a NATO Germany would increase European stability was clear in a declaration issued by NATO leaders at a summit in London earlier this month.

If Singh had sent his resignation letter to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman instead of to the party leader, it could have opened the way for former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to try to form a new government or to have new elections held.

The party is united. The government will continue," Bommai said before convening a late-night meeting of the party's decision-making forum.

Singh asked to step down after three cabinet ministers quit to protest a political scandal. Two more junior ministers announced their resignations within hours of Bommai's claim of unity.

The opposition congress party dismissed the political crisis as a fraud.

"Frankly, I think it's a hoax. If the prime minister really wanted to resign he should have done the logical thing and gone to the president of India," said Congress Party spokesman M.J. Akbar. "It's a joke on the people of India."

Supporters persuaded Devi Lal, a peasant leader proud of his rough-hewn ways, to change his mind for the sake of party unity.

Senior Janata Dal sources said

Nehru and Khan were among those who believed the aristocratic

Qasem, Baker discuss peace efforts; U.N. chief concerned over Palestinian safety

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker discussed the Middle East peace process with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who later characterized the 90-minute meeting to reporters as being "very fruitful."

Jordan is very concerned about the rising tensions in the region, he said, adding: "That is why we are here."

"We are trying to inject every possible idea that will keep the peace process going and to re-engage the Palestinians in the process. That is one of the elements that will ease the situation in the region," Qasem said.

"I hope that the suspension of the (U.S.-Palestine Liberation Organisation) dialogue will not last too long," he added.

During the daily press briefing, before the meeting, Depu-

ty State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said that Baker and Qasem would be discussing "a range of bilateral and regional issues, including the peace process." He noted that Qasem is in the United States on a private visit.

"Considering the long-standing ties between the United States and Jordan, we are pleased he is taking the opportunity to meet with the secretary," the deputy spokesman said.

Qasem met with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York Thursday and discussed the situation in the occupied territories.

U.N. chief voices concern

Perez de Cuellar said Friday he was deeply concerned about the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Diplomats suggested sending a second, more wide-reaching U.N. mission to the area to follow up on the inquiries of the last month's mission.

"We are very much concerned about the fate of the Palestinians," Perez de Cuellar told reporters after briefing the Security Council about the visit of his envoy, Jean-Claude Aime, to the occupied territories.

Perez de Cuellar declined to give details of the report, but diplomats said he stated that Palestinians were concerned about midnight raids and rash action by Israeli police and security forces.

Arab diplomats are seeking to have Aime's report, which was delivered orally, put in writing so they can seek Security Council action to get physical and economic protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories. Aime is a

special assistant to the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar, however, indicated the report would not be issued as a written document.

Arab diplomats called for an international, U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference to protect Palestinians. They have said that if the Security Council does not act on behalf of the Palestinians, they will request a rare session of the General Assembly.

But Security Council consultations Friday were inconclusive, and there was no immediate statement about Arab strategy. Arab diplomats have said they will await the secretary-general's report before deciding how to proceed.

Western and Middle East diplomats, however, suggested the secretary-general might dispatch another mission to report further.

New Soviet politburo seen another Gorbachev victory

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party Saturday formally elected a new ruling politburo, but the once-supreme executive seems set to play second fiddle to Mikhail Gorbachev's new presidential council.

The politburo — the party's top body — ceded power to the council in a sharp break with tradition that strengthened Gorbachev's hand to reform the Soviet Union.

For decades the politburo dictated policy in every area of Soviet life and till now comprised senior government figures. But the new lineup contains only two members of the previous body and includes some relative unknowns.

The prime minister, foreign minister and defence minister are no longer members and belong instead to the presidential council, which Gorbachev chooses himself as state president.

This serves to underline that the party is totally breaking with the situation in the past when it was totally incorporated into the command-and-administer system and was at the top of the hierarchy," Frolov told a news conference.

"Now the party will be competing with other social and political forces and seeking to establish its predominance mainly through an ideological and political struggle," the Pravda editor, elected to the new politburo, said.

Frolov afterwards told reporters that the politburo would meet only once a month instead of the usual once a week.

Vaulting into the politburo, the party's leading body that was doubled in size to 24 members, were the party leaders from the 15 Soviet republics as well as several moderate reformers and officials little known outside their areas of specialty.

Dropped from the politburo were all members of the party's leading body that was in the Soviet Union's interests for Germany to be a member of NATO, a proposal not yet accepted by the Kremlin.

He was reelected party general secretary during the 28th party congress — which ended Friday — during which he defeated hardline rivals worried by the pace of his reforms.

Gorbachev adviser Alexander Yakovlev, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and tradi-

tionalist Yegor K. Ligachev.

Frolov announced that the new politburo will include himself, the heads of party organisations in the Soviet republics, Gorbachev and deputy party leader Vladimir A. Ivashko, as well as:

— Yuri Prokofiev, the Moscow Communist Party chief. Prokofiev is known as a moderate reformer.

— Gennady Yanayev, who became head of the Central Council of Trade Unions last year after labour unrest began spreading through the country. He will be responsible for international affairs.

— Galina Semyonova, editor-in-chief of "Peasant Woman" magazine. She will be responsible for women's issues.

Gorbachev acknowledged that the party's days of monolithic power were over.

"We're on the threshold of a multiparty system. I don't see anything frightening in that," he told CBS News Friday.

Gorbachev was critical of prominent liberals who quit the party, including maverick Boris Yeltsin and the mayors of Moscow and Leningrad.

But he acknowledged that such defections point to a "gap" between the people and the party.

er even seen a discotheque."

A total of 4,500 Albanians who had sought refuge in the embassies in the Albanians capital left their homeland in an international sealift Friday.

The first of more than 3,000 Albanians bound for West Germany on chartered trains arrived in Heidelberg. It was the start of an exodus reminiscent of the East German wave of refugees last year that helped bring down that Communist government.

The refugees' journey began when they stormed into various embassies in Tirana more than two weeks ago to seek passage out of their country, which has resisted the kinds of sweeping reforms that have radically altered other East European countries.

The group of 125 Albanians who arrived here Saturday afternoon after a 26-hour train ride from Italy via Switzerland looked happy but exhausted.

As the train pulled into the station, many joyously waved their hands in victory from the train's windows; others were smiling as they disembarked, bright red Albanian passports in their shirt pockets.

"Much will depend on the transformation of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty organisation military structures into political ones," Shevardnadze said. The two men held talks earlier.

"We are leaving our country because we don't want these communists," said Enkeo Halili, a 24-year-old mechanic. "We are young... we are poor. We've never

been sheltered in the Polish embassy flew from Tirana to Warsaw Saturday and were taken to an army facility.

Many of the refugees felt that wherever they wound up, life would be better than what they believe is

Irish envoy continues mission in Beirut Reports conflict over release of hostage

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian sources said Saturday they were still confident a Western hostage in Lebanon would be freed but could not agree on when.

"Things are going the right way... it is only a matter of time," said one senior source, a week after Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that a captive, probably a European, could soon be freed.

With Irishman Brian Keenan widely tipped as the likeliest candidate, Irish envoy Adrian McDaid spent a third day touring the Lebanese capital in search of hard information.

But another pro-Iranian security source said the release could take some time because Dublin had still "not made its position clear." The source declined to amplify the remark.

McDaid Saturday met Ali Hammoud, the Syrian intelligence officer in charge of west Beirut's security.

Syrian soldiers guarding Hammoud's headquarters at the seaside Ramlet Baida district did not allow news reporters and photographers to wait for the Irish diplomat.

McDaid also met with Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

"All I can say is that I had a very interesting discussion with Prime Minister Hoss... I thought it was of importance that I talk to him and explain to him the reason why I'm here and brief him on the situation," McDaid told reporters after the 30-minute meeting.

He refused to answer questions about the outcome of his talks with Hammoud.

However, McDaid stressed that "I said yesterday that we

were hopeful and today I'm still hopeful." He did not elaborate on the remark.

Asked for how long would he be staying in Lebanon, McDaid said: "Probably for a week or a bit longer. I don't know."

A source at the Irish consulate in west Beirut, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP McDaid "doesn't have other scheduled meetings with public figures for today and tomorrow. (Sunday.)"

The consulate in west Beirut's Verdun street opened exceptionally Saturday for McDaid to "maintain his contacts," the source added.

The Irish diplomat, who is based in Baghdad, flew in Thursday.

Keenan, 39, an English language teacher, was kidnapped in west Beirut April 11, 1986. No group claimed to hold him.

However, former American hostage Frank Reed, the latest captive to be released April 30, said he saw Keenan two days before his release and said he had spent almost three years in the same house or room with him.

A group called Islamic Dawah announced Reed's release.

The Irish consulate source said earlier McDaid was "trying to find out from Brigadier Hammoud whether the Syrians had any information on the hostage release before their return to Damascus."

Assad and Sharas arrived in Egypt Saturday for the summit meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

IRNA's resident correspondent Mussayeb Naimi said: "We stressed that our sources are reliable and we explained to Mr.

McDaid that the hostage to be released will probably be a European national."

"He asked us about the reports that said Keenan will be released and we explained to him that our report did not name the hostage," Naimi added.

The 16 Western hostages held mainly by pro-Iranian underground Shi'ite factions are Keenan, six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss and an Italian.

McDaid, contacted at the Bristol hotel in west Beirut early in the day, refused to inform the media of his activities.

"I have a job to do. I'm not going to inform the press of my meetings in advance," he said.

In addition to visiting the IRNA office, McDaid spent his day Friday at the Irish consulate waiting for word from "anybody who feels he has something solid that might lead to a happy resolution."

However, the Irish consulate source said McDaid "did not receive any calls from people who have inside information on the hostages' issue."

With Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra in Egypt, sources do not expect a hostage release before their return to Damascus.

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Churches alarmed over exodus of Christians from Mideast

LIMASSOL (AP) — The Middle East's Christian prelates have voiced alarm at the exodus of Christians from the region at a time when hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to flood into Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

"Middle East emigration could not but be seen in the light of the current crisis created by Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the occupied territories and East Jerusalem," the executive committee of the Middle East Council of Churches said in a statement Friday.

The committee also blamed Israeli human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and spreading Islamic fundamentalism for the exodus.

The communiqué was issued after a three-day meeting of the 24-member committee. It consists of senior representatives of the region's four main Christian sects, the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Anglican-Protestants.

"While emigration is a matter of deep concern, it is symptomatic of deeper causes which can be traced to the political, economic and human rights situation in the Middle East," the communiqué noted.

It added that it was consequently necessary "to join with other religious and non-religious organisations, as well as governments, to work together to increase awareness among people

for the concern for human rights."

The communiqué reiterated the council's support "for the restoration of the rights of the Christian community in Jerusalem, in the context of the realisation of justice and peace in Palestine-Israel as a whole."

It also repeated a call last January by the council's general assembly for the right of the Palestinians to establish a state of their own.

The council estimates that the total Christian population in the Middle East is 14 million.

Kafify said it was necessary "to attack the cause of emigration and not the symptoms, and the cause is the violation of the human rights of the people."

But he admitted that the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the region was also driving Christians out.

"We are in an area where there are religious states and we must look at this aspect also as one of the reasons," Kafify said.

Samir Kafify, the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem, said during the executive meeting that the wave of emigration from the area "is not a peculiarity Christian problem."

"But we are a minority and it's more visible and noticeable in our case."

Emigration by Christian and Muslim Palestinians was being spurred "by the massive Soviet-Jewish emigration which supercedes any other political problem," he told a news conference Friday.

"Israel previously pushed people out and now with the coming

years."

Dhow business in Bahrain

almost stopped after the inauguration of the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway in 1986, following the virtual end of pearling that once flourished here. The dhow industry is now striving for existence.

"We're taking steps towards helping balance the loss," Khaja told the Associated Press. He said the Bahrain Tourism Projects Company, which will handle the exports, has also begun renting dhows to companies, banks, schools and government offices in Bahrain for 150 dinars (\$450) for eight hours.

"Soon this offer will be open to the public," Khaja said.

Elaborating on the export plans, he said worldwide promotion campaign were under way, and that responses came from Australia as well as the United States. But he refused to specify the interested parties.

The seaworthy boats, made practically only of teak plank and hemp, in Bahrain cost between 40,000 to 80,000 dinars



TEN CITIES: Many Israelis have moved to smaller new towns, thus forcing regular "tent cities" amid protests that higher rents have forced them out of their homes because of inability to afford the massive wave of Soviet Jews to higher rents demanded by landlords to Israel. Some Israelis say the government

U.N. urges compromise, separate talks in Nicosia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday called for a fresh round of separate discussions with the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in Nicosia.

"The coming period will be of critical importance," he said in a written report to the Security Council. "The time has come to stop mutual recriminations and to concentrate efforts on promoting reconciliation."

Perez de Cuellar called on both sides to compromise and show moderation.

He said there has been "a general deterioration of the atmosphere" in recent months and an increasing sense of frustration "because of the present lack of progress."

The U.N. chief said it was important that the two leaders meet with as soon as possible to agree on an outline and to launch the negotiations of an overall agreement.

He proposed holding separate discussions in Nicosia to prepare the ground. No dates were proposed.

Perez de Cuellar launched his peace initiative for Cyprus in talks with both sides in Geneva in August 1988.

He last held talks in March in New York with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, recognised as president of the island, and Rauf Denktash, leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot community in the north.

At that meeting, he said, "conceptual difficulties emerged from

The Greek Cypriot government, which is recognised by the United Nations, seeks the withdrawal of Turkish troops and says Cypriots should be able to buy land anywhere on the island.

But Turkey insists on guarantees of the rights of Turkish residents.

In the next separate talks in Nicosia, Perez de Cuellar said, both will be asked their positions on key issues to create an outline for a settlement.

Once a mutually agreeable outline is within reach, he said, both leaders would be invited to meet him to finish it and start negotiating an overall agreement.

Infectious wound?

The secretary general of the Council of Europe, Catherine Laluomiere, has said the division of Cyprus was a wound which could infect other parts of Europe.

Laluomiere told a news conference at the end of a three-day stay in Cyprus she had been shocked and saddened by the wall

dividing Nicosia.

"It is a scandal in the strongest sense of the word. In today's Europe, such barriers are inconceivable," she said.

"If we don't do something about this absciss, it risks spreading to the rest of Europe and becoming like gangrene."

She said the Council of Europe, which includes Cyprus, Turkey and Greece among its 23 member states, supported efforts by Perez de Cuellar to resolve the problem.

Bahrain to export dhows worldwide

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain's traditional dhows will soon hit world markets starting with the United States, a tourism official said.

The council estimates that the total Christian population in the Middle East is 14 million.

Kafify said it was necessary "to attack the cause of emigration and not the symptoms, and the cause is the violation of the human rights of the people."

But he admitted that the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the region was also driving Christians out.

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Emigration by Christian and Muslim Palestinians was being spurred "by the massive Soviet-Jewish emigration which supercedes any other political problem," he told a news conference Friday.

"Israel previously pushed people out and now with the coming

(\$120,000 - 240,000), he noted.

"Some people are expected to buy these boats because they are interested collectors of ancient skills and antiques," Khaja said.

"Others will actually use them for fishing and cruising."

The boats can carry 60 people at a time. They are strongly built and can last for almost a 100 years. Builders use wood imported from India and Nepal, using simple non-electric tools.

Khaja noted that it took 1½ years to complete a large dhow, and six months for a small one, needing six builders to spend hours building it.

The more recently built dhows, and probably the ones that will be ordered for export, are well-equipped, with life-savers, radios, compasses and other equipment.

The dhow weighs 10 tons, sometimes reaching 50 tons, depending on the size. The length of the sail is 1½ times longer than the dhow itself.

The seaworthy boats, made practically only of teak plank and hemp, in Bahrain cost between 40,000 to 80,000 dinars

Iran says it plans case against S. Arabia

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's top judge Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Yazdi said Friday Tehran would lodge a complaint against Saudi Arabia with international courts for the death of 1,426 pilgrims in the Hajj tunnel tragedy.

A Saudi Arabian newspaper, Al Riyadh, said in an editorial Friday that Tehran was partly to blame for the stampede because of fears of a possible Iranian attack

which it could not be blamed.

"I am busy drawing up a basic and legal complaint to international courts against Saudi Arabia with international law," the paper quoted Yazdi as saying.

Saudi gesture

Ten Turkish pilgrims seriously injured in the tunnel tragedy returned to Ankara Friday aboard an aircraft provided by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

A further 22 sick and injured pilgrims arrived home aboard a Turkish airliner. About 550 Turks were crushed or suffocated in the tunnel near Mecca 11 days ago.

Health Minister Halli Sirivin, who travelled on the Turkish plane, said it was not clear exactly how many Turks died or were injured.

"According to our findings, some pilgrims who have been reported dead are in fact alive. It will take time to determine the exact number of living and dead," he told reporters.

The Turkish parliament will debate the tragedy next Thursday at the request of opposition parties.

Taipei resigned to break in ties with S. Arabia

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign minister said Saturday relations with Saudi Arabia had reached their lowest point and there was little hope of preventing Riyadh switching diplomatic recognition to China.

Only 28 countries have diplomatic relations with Taipei, recognising the claim of the Taiwan nationalists to be the government of all China.

Taiwan's foreign minister said Saturday relations with Saudi Arabia, its only diplomatic ally in the Middle East and its major supplier of oil, had "reached their worst point," he said.

He said Saudi Arabia was planning to send an envoy to Taiwan for talks on the matter, but declined to give details.

Analysts said China was trying to hit back against Taipei's aggressive diplomatic push.

"Saudi Arabia is becoming Beijing's first target in its counter-offensive against our diplomatic push," said Lu Ya-Li, professor of politics at National Taiwan University.

Asked by legislators whether

Mummies to be checked for AIDS-type viruses

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch researchers can copy and magnify the DNA chain remaining in a cell after death and permit detailed study.

The technique, developed two years ago by Swedish scientist Svante Paabo, led to the discovery announced last week that a British sailor had died of AIDS in 1959, 23 years before the disease was recorded in Britain, according to a report in the Times of London.

"It is possible that the AIDS virus could have existed for thousands of years in another, non-dangerous form," said Gelen.

AIDS is a fatal disease transmitted primarily by sexual intercourse and sharing of infected syringes.

Goudsmit, a biologist, and Perizonius, an archaeologist, already have begun testing tissue samples from mummified humans, cats, and monkeys.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

22:35 Beirut (ME) Athens (OA)

22:45 Doha (RJ) Jeddah (add.) (RJ)

00:00 Ankara (RJ) Seoul (LJ)

00:25 Tunis

Home News

Officials deny plan to build nuclear plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday flatly rejected a local press report that Jordan might build a nuclear power-generating plant in the Aqaba area.

"There is no substance to the report whatever," said an official spokesman for the ministry. "It is totally unfounded."

A JEA spokesman echoed the same denial. "It is in fact news to us," he said. "We are as surprised as you are," he told the Jordan Times over the phone. "We are trying to figure out where the so-called 'leak' came from."

Asked whether the authorities had conducted a study on the feasibility of building a nuclear power plant, both spokesmen said they were not aware of the existence of such a study.

According to the controversial report, which appeared in an Arabic-language daily, the presumed study found that the pro-

ject would cost as much as Jordan's gross national income for the next 14 years. Therefore, the report said, "it is inevitable that major foreign governments would have to contribute to the project."

Energy experts also dismissed the story. "Jordan's present requirement of electricity warrants a capacity of not more than 530 to 550 megawatts," an expert told the Jordan Times. "The Kingdom has an installed capacity of slightly over 1,000 megawatts and it is inconceivable that it would embark on a nuclear power plant project in the foreseeable future."

Economists said for any nuclear power plant to be economically feasible the minimum consumption requirement should be 2,000 megawatts. "Jordan's requirement is not expected to exceed more than 800 megawatt installed capacity even by the year 2,000 one economist said.

3 dead, 45 injured in 4 months in festive gun fire

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday reported the death of three persons and the injury of 45 others in the first four months of 1990 in Amman and nine other towns in the Kingdom; the deaths resulted from firing arms at weddings and other joyful occasions.

Of these incidents, 13 were in Amman, nine in Irbid, nine in the Balqa area while the rest occurred in Karak, Maan, Zarqa, Badia, Aqaba, Tafleah and Madaba, the PSD statement said.

Statistics showed that 34 of a total of 57 firing incidents during this period were caused by young people, aged between 18 and 27, and that the majority of the victims were below 18 years of age, the PSD statement said.

Those injured or killed in these incidents were hit by stray bullets and most of the weapons seized after the incidents proved that they were unlicensed, the statement added.

The statement noted that last year's total incidents amounted to 224, resulting in the death of 28 persons and the injury of 192 others. Most of last year's incidents occurred in Irbid, which accounted for 29.5 per cent of the total number of the incidents; followed by Amman which had 22.8 per cent share of the total number.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Training course for animal farm inspectors opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyah Saturday opened at the Animal Health Institute a training course for animal farms inspectors. In his speech Arabiyah said the government's policy towards animal wealth concentrates on organising the production process, supporting it through providing animal feed at subsidised prices, particularly in times of drought and providing veterinary care. He said the most important problems facing animal farmers are epidemics and communicable diseases; he added that the government was working within the framework of a comprehensive plan to combat this problem.

Courses on banking and management open

AMMAN (Petra) — Three training courses on bank credit facilities were opened Saturday at the Jordan Institute of Management. The courses aim at acquainting the participants from Jordan and Saudi Arabia with the theoretical and practical aspects of providing credit facilities and at developing their skill in promotion, planning and data base. Other four training courses on higher management, work planning and organisation and decision-making through the use of computers started Saturday at the Institute of Public Administration.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Primo at Alia Art Gallery.
- Plastic art exhibition by Radwana and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Omani student Mohammad Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Concert by the Turkish Mevlevi Sons Group (7:30-9:00 p.m.) and the Azerbaijan State Ballet (9:30-11:00 p.m.) at the South Theatre.
- Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:30 - 8:00) and a Pakistani folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.).
- Concert by Gary Burton Jazz Quintet at Artemis Steps (9:30 - 11:00 p.m.).

House rejects move to abolish Ministry of Higher Education

By Abdullah Ehsanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday rejected two amendments proposed by the government to higher education laws on the grounds that they fail to ensure the independence of higher education.

Both amendments, to two separate laws, would have reversed two laws enacted by the government of former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai which in 1989 established the Ministry of Higher Education and abolished the universities' boards of trustees.

The first proposed amendment to the universities' law sought to re-establish the universities' boards of trustees; the second amendment would have abolished the Ministry of Higher Education and transferred its duties to the Ministry of Education. Both amendments were rejected by the House legal and education committees.

The debate on the House floor Saturday turned into one among the members of the two committees. While most of those speaking during the session agreed that the proposed amendments did not ensure the independence of the universities, many wanted to retain the Ministry of Higher Education.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris, rapporteur of the legal committee, after reading the committee's decision, objected that the boards of trustees, as proposed, are "government-appointed, which turns the universities into government-run institutions."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran countered by reminding the House of the constitutional division of authority, implying the government is the authority that can name the members of the board of trustees. Badran hinted that universities, if completely independent from government, cannot ensure proper funding.

Replies Badran's accusation, legal committee Chairman Husein Mjally stressed "none of us is opposing just for the sake of opposition." Mjally, a lawyer and ex-president of the Jordan Bar Association, countered that past trustee boards were never independent and could not solicit solid donations.

Mjally said the proposed amendments was "not satisfactory and freedom of education was not even mentioned."

The House earlier listened to the verdict of the Higher Council concerning the government decision to retire the president of the Audit Bureau, Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas.

According to the constitution, the retirement of the Audit Bureau president must be approved by the Lower House of Parliament when it convenes.

Badran, chiding deputies for "opposing just for the sake of opposition," stressed that establishing trustee boards would ensure competition for better education between universities.

Deputy Taher Al Masri, the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee and foreign minister in Rifai's cabinet, agreed with the prime minister.

Masri, however, asserted that higher education in Jordan was "beginning to weaken and that cannot be rectified unless we ensured the independence of the universities."

Masri said he believed that trustee boards would ensure universities' independence. He did not agree to abolish the Ministry of Higher Education.

Chairman of the House Education Committee Thouran Hindawi said there was

contradiction in the proposed amendment. Hindawi, who served as deputy prime minister and minister of education in Rifai's government said, "the authority granted to the Council of Higher Education contradicts the objectives of the law."

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According to the constitution, the retirement of the Audit Bureau president must be approved by the Lower House of Parliament when it convenes.

However, the Higher Council ruled that since the subject was not on the agenda of the House during its current extraordinary session, the House can not discuss the matter unless a Royal Decree was issued adding the issue to the House agenda.

The Higher Council is composed of three members of the Upper House of Parliament, five judges from the Court of Cassation and the speaker of the House.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday tours the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre after inaugurating it (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates handicrafts centre

SALT (J.T.) — The formal opening of the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre (SHTC) — a joint project carried out by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) and the Italian government — took place Saturday in a celebration attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor and other dignitaries.

The Queen unveiled a marble plaque at the outset of the celebration, declaring the training centre officially open.

The Italian government provided some JD 600,000 towards constructing and equipping the centre and financing the cost of maintaining the services of the Italian instructors. SDC provided JD 200,000 over a two-year period to finance the construction of certain facilities and the purchase of equipment and furniture, according to a statement by Noor Hussein Foundation (NHF)

which is entrusted with supervising the centre's management and operations.

According to an Italian specialist who briefed the Queen on the various parts of the centre, trainees can be trained in printing on silk, and work in ceramics, dyeing and textiles.

The Queen toured different sections and watched trainees and their instructors carrying out their tasks.

Later the Queen was briefed by the project director, Arwa Al Tal, on plans to introduce other handicrafts like jewellery, metal work, glass, restoration of archaeological sites in Salt and traditional crafts.

NHF said that work on the project started in 1987, following an agreement for assistance from the Italian government reached in



The Jordanian pavilion at the Jakarta fair (JTA photo)

Jordanian firms scored success in Indonesian fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian firms and companies which took part in a month-long fair held in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta have found it successful and concluded deals to sell Jordanian products in the Indonesian market, according to an announcement by Halim Abu Rahmeh, executive director of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA).

Eighteen companies from Jordan took part in the fair along with Indonesia, Pakistan, China, Taiwan and Vietnam and the annual event marked a success for Jordan which exhibited its local products to the Indonesian market, said Abu Rahmeh upon return from Jakarta at the end of the fair Friday.

Jordanian firms displayed samples of pharmaceutical products, carpet, drip irrigation equipment, plastic pipes, perambulators, fertilisers, gas stoves, potash and

phosphate, attracting visitors in large numbers, Abu Rahmeh said.

He said that Jordan's participation aimed at familiarising visitors and Indonesian merchants with Jordan's national products and at offering the chance for Indonesian and Jordanian businessmen to meet and discuss trade prospects.

The Indonesian market is vast and has a great potential for Jordanian products which are of high and competitive quality," Abu Rahmeh said.

"JTA organised Jordan's participation in the fair and together with the participating companies shared the cost of the Jordanian pavilion which stood at about \$50,000," Abu Rahmeh added.

"Some of the Jordanian businessmen succeeded in concluding contracts with Indonesian agents to market Jordanian products to the participating nations.

Bakeries alarmed over work permits

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A long-standing dispute between the Public Bakeries Union and the Ministry of Labour over work permit fees for foreign labour has come to the forefront for the fourth time in three years in what unionists call the "fight for the price of bread."

While three consecutive ministers of labour agreed to overturn a standing law which requires the payment of JD 100 for every foreign worker employed by a bakery owner, the current ministry, headed by Minister Qassem Obeidat has decided to uphold the law and insist on the payment.

Bakery unionists argue that since bread is a basic food staple with fixed prices, the government should make specific regulations for bakery employees on the payment.

"Our problem with Jordanian employees is that no Jordanian wants to work in a bakery; it seems many would rather be out of work," said Hamawi.

He argues that "it is not up to us to change the mentality of Jordanians who seem to think it shameful to work in a bakery."

The working conditions of bakery employees are not enticing to many Jordanians according to Hamawi.

The shift involves 12 hour work, seven days a week at less than JD 3 per day or JD 84 a month with no vacation.

"The low wages do not permit the payment of the JD 100 work permit by the foreign workers, most of whom are Egyptians, and the bakery owner can't pay the fee because he will make no profit if he pays this amount," says Hamawi.

Meanwhile, the head of the Public Bakeries Union Abdul Ilah Al Hamawi argued that by the time the law is changed Jordanian bakery owners will be "in debt over their head" and many bakers will be forced to close.

"We came to an understanding with the ministry in 1987 when the foreign workers' permits cost JD 30 and the ministry agreed to cancel the fee altogether," Hamawi told the Jordan Times.

Bakery unionists argue that since bread is a basic food staple with fixed prices, the government should make specific regulations for bakery employees on the payment.

"We were unsuccessful in tempting unemployed Jordanians into our bakeries to work," Hamawi said.

"We will continue to try to change the law and no matter what we are going to have to continue making bread for the people. We have no intention of becoming like other countries where the public sector has taken over from the private sector," said Hamawi referring to bread riots in the Middle East where people have to stand in line to buy bread from the early hours of the morning.

"We have no intention of insisting that the price of bread be raised nor do we care to start bread riots, but we would like the officials to meet us part of the way," concluded Hamawi referring to bread riots in Tunisia and Algeria which were on the verge of destabilising central governments as a result of a raise in bread prices.



Shishki Jhummer dance performed by the Pakistani troupe at the Jerash Festival

Jordan Times

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Limit the pain

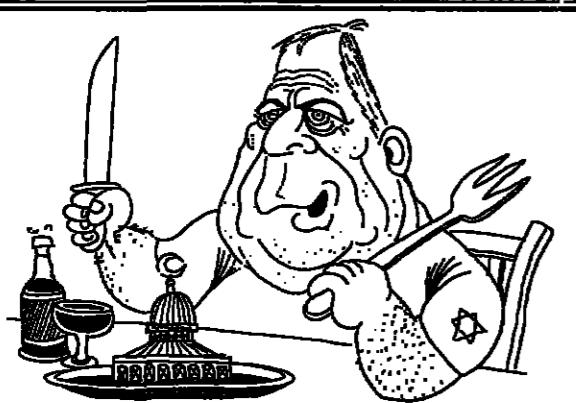
THE Public Security Department has just published a statistical bulletin giving details about those killed or injured in firing incidents in Jordan in the first quarter of 1990. The figures, three dead and 45 injured, bear indications that this year's incidents are going to be far below those of 1989, with less fatalities among our people as a result of stray bullets fired in weddings and other archaic occasions like the birth of male babies. The custom of firing at wedding celebrations owes its origins to ritual tribal dances expressing joy and jubilation in the Arab World, but now the habit of firing seems to have invaded towns and cities as well as the rural regions of Jordan with occasional reports of deaths and injuries that usually transformed the joy into sorrow and mourning.

In dealing with the situation in the past, governments empowered military courts to deal with such incidents, imposing heavy fines and jail sentences against those involved in firing weapons. That was intended to reduce the number of victims from such incidents and stem the use of fire arms as a whole.

What is worrying Jordanians is not only the loss of innocent life due to tampering with guns and firing weapons. Rather, it is the fact that many of the weapons seized by the police were generally found unlicensed, and that most of those involved in firing incidents belonged to the younger generations of about 18 to 27.

Notwithstanding the government's decision last January to refer incidents of this sort to civilian (rather than military) courts, one would expect stricter control on licensing weapons and heavier penalties and jail sentences for those firing weapons in populated regions to follow suit.

The statistical bulletin provided by the police Saturday can by no means bring the dead back or reduce the pain caused already to bereaved families, but it can at least remind Jordanians of the pressing need to continue the fight against reckless actions and needless casualties in our society.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday described President Hafez Al Assad's visit to Egypt as a very important step towards building a unified Arab stand at a time when the Arab Nation is facing mounting challenges. The visit, coming after a break of 13 years has been welcomed by all Arab states since it helps Arab leaders to consult on issues of common interest and on the future stage of Arab action, said the paper. Needless to say that any Arab political influence and any respect to be gained from other nations can only come through solidarity among themselves, the paper added. Al Ra'i referred to hostile statements which tried to depict the visit as an attempt on the part of Assad to boost his leadership following a long isolation from other Arab leaders, as means to draw a wedge in the Arab ranks and to cause further splits. One can only expect such attitudes from the enemy who is bent on weakening the Arab Nation to pave the way for implementing his plans in the Arab region, the paper added. It said that the meeting in Egypt is bound to have its beneficial effect on current efforts to convene an Arab summit meeting in Cairo in November, and to enhance the Arab World's position vis-a-vis various challenges looming in the offing.

Al Dustour daily on Saturday emphasised the importance of the intrinsic Arab force as the best and most effective weapon that can provide defence to the Arab Nation. We can be assured of our success in safeguarding our interests and of our regional and international influence if we handle our vast human and material potentials properly and effectively, and employ them in the struggle to fend off danger, said the paper. Al Dustour was referring to the Arab foreign ministers' meeting opening in Tunis Sunday to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and Washington's hostile attitude towards the Arab World. It said that the foreign ministers would achieve a breakthrough if they found a way of presenting their case to Europe and the members of the U.N. Security Council; because these parties can have a major influence on the situation in the Middle East region. For their part, the Arabs can also display total solidarity and unified stand vis-a-vis the numerous challenges posed to them by their common enemy. What the Arabs need now is a collective action based on sound strategy that can confront and deal with the Israeli threats directed to the Arab Order, the paper said.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said that all countries around the world wish to see peace established in the Middle East region except the United States and Israel. The two are opposing the views of the Soviet Union which has been calling for an international conference to achieve peace, the European Community and former U.S. Senator Charles Percy who has just voiced his warning against the prospect of renewed conflict in the region as a result of Israel's policies, demanding that Washington stop its unlimited support for Israel's practices, the paper noted. For the United States, Israel represents the custodian of Western and American interests in the Middle East, a region considered explosive by all observers and destabilising world peace, the paper added. The paper said that by supporting Israel, the United States is blindly pursuing irresponsible policies like those it had adopted in Vietnam and Korea, policies that ended up in total failure.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

CBJ resolves the future of 5 banks

By Dr. Fahed Fawak

AT LAST, the central bank has made up its mind and resolved in one stroke several pending problems in the banking system. This time it was a surgical operation rather than a tranquilising medicine.

Last week, decisions were made regarding the future of Petra Bank, Jordan & Gulf Bank, Syrian-Jordanian Bank, Al Mashreq Bank, Investment and Exports Bank.

Petra Bank will be liquidated, but only after the transfer of its deposits to the Housing Bank, the second largest and most powerful after Arab Bank. Thus all the public's deposits estimated at JD 100 million will be protected. Any withdrawal of these deposits from the Housing Bank will be replenished by the central bank on weekly basis. Deposits will retain all their terms and conditions including currency, duration and interest rates. Some depositors may withdraw their deposits but the majority may like the new arrangement, as they can not find better terms elsewhere, coupled with the unlimited guarantee of the central bank.

At the same time a new investment bank will be established to finance exports. The new bank will be entrusted with the operating assets of Petra Bank, especially real estate, shares of companies and good loans. The paidup capital of this bank will be JD 4 million, of which 50 per cent will be provided by the central bank and the balance offered to the private sector. However, the central bank will supply the

Investment and Export Bank with substantial liquidity to be financed from a special fund in the central bank.

The central bank will require all banks and finance corporations to deposit amounts in this special fund equal to their deposits with Petra Bank which were withdrawn at the expense of the central bank after Aug. 2, 1989, when the CBJ took over Petra Bank and dismissed its corrupt management. These compulsory deposits will be tied for three years with a reduced interest rate of 4 to 5 per cent only. Thus those banks will not completely get away with their questionable practice, when, tempted by interest rates higher than those prevailing in the market, they were loading their liquidity onto Petra Bank for reckless

expansion. Amounts involved are estimated at JD 60 million.

On the other hand, the central bank was designated by the Economic Security Committee as a liquidator to Petra Bank, in order to recover the maximum possible from the residual assets of the troubled bank. The central bank in turn will appoint a committee of legal and financial experts to do the job on its behalf.

What remains of Petra Bank is the fate of some 700 employees. The governor of the central bank has vowed to extend all practical help to absorb as many employees as possible in the Housing Bank, the new Investment & Exports Bank, and in the banking system in general. Some of them are bound to lose their jobs. Jordan & Gulf Bank was

taking over at favourable conditions. As an indication to the above, the general manager of the Syrian-Jordanian Bank was appointed as a member in the management committee of Jordan & Gulf Bank.

The Jordanian branches of the Lebanese Al Mashreq Bank will also be restructured to form part of Jordanian bank led by Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan). The operation was under process, for quite some time, and may reach its conclusion soon.

The central bank have moved decisively to put an end to abnormal situations, and enable the banking system to restore its credibility as a basis for a new era of economic adjustment and healthy growth.

Good old habits to save good old men

By Mark Heinrich
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — A mixture of social conscience and pre-election manoeuvring appears to be stopping the East German government from casting its bankrupt companies adrift in the economic merger with its powerful neighbour.

As East Germany disclosed last week that it was staving off unemployment for hundreds of thousands by paying industries to retain their jobs, the godfather of West Germany's financial powerhouse was in town to give contrary advice.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said it was wrong to continue subsidising jobs in industry left terminally backward before December, when all-German general elections will be held to seal unification after 45 years of post-world war two division.

Mass unemployment could prove a powder keg of social unrest in East Germany and threaten West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's strong bid to be elected the first leader of a reunited fatherland, the analysts say.

Latest polls show the dominant Christian Democrats (CDU) in both Germanys would score a resounding majority in tandem with their junior coalition partners, the free democrats, if the unity elections were stated now.

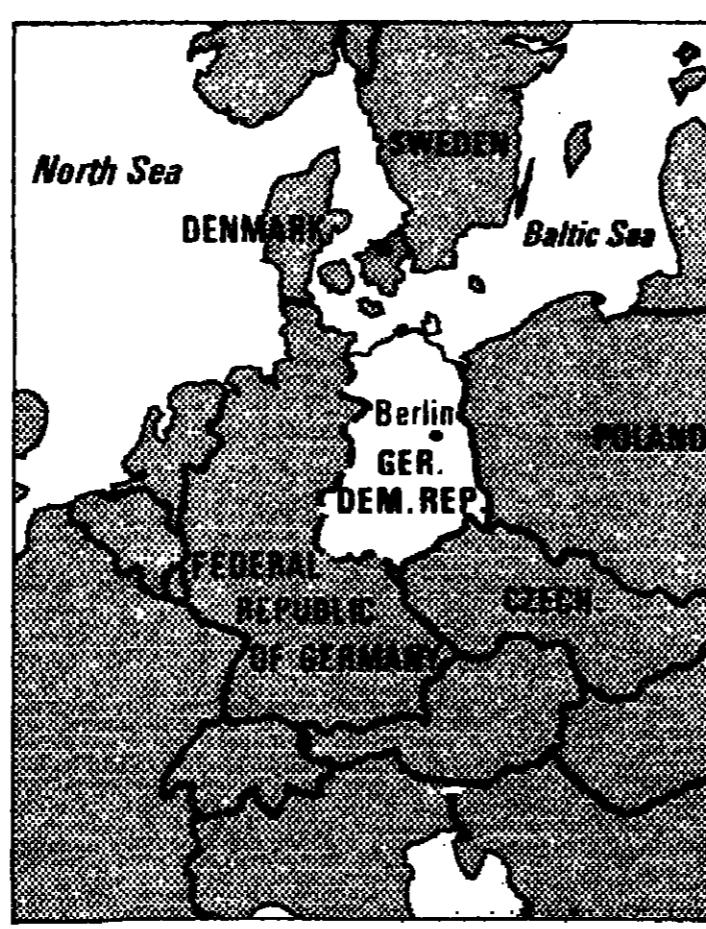
With electoral margins in mind, Kohl's government has shelled out two billion marks (\$1.2 billion) this year to finance benefit schemes hatched by East Germany's governing coalition, led by CDU Premier Lothar de Maiziere.

Those were words of wisdom from a renowned architect of inflation-free affluence. But how do you get such wisdom across to the East German worker fearing for his job in a strange new world ruled by competition, not patronage of the state?

The East German government is doing so by sitting on the fence between the country's past and future, preaching competition while quietly shielding those who are not up to it, analysts of the unfolding situation believe.

Companies converting from state to private ownership are getting state liquidity credits and straight cash infusions to keep hundreds of thousands of workers employed for the next six months at least, the labour ministry said.

"The workers are working less than before or not at all, but are nevertheless no dismissed," he said, telling workers they could price themselves out of a job.



Mandela, the PLO and American Jews

By Ian Williams

NELSON Mandela's visit to the U.S. was a fascinating revelation of how American politics and the media personaise and demonise issues. Here was Mandela, certified as a hero, but reputed to have views on the Middle East which were the political equivalent of leprosy. A delegation of American Jewish leaders flew to Geneva to check on his political health, wanting assurances that he accepted not just Israel's existence but its moral right to existence.

Ostensibly, this was to avert the threat of pro-Israeli and anti-Mandela demonstrations in New York. Perhaps wisely, in view of the fragile state of the "gorgeous mosaic" of the city's ethnic diversity, there were no significant demonstrations. Mandela's attractions to an increasingly alienated black and Latin population are obvious, and the political implications of his transition from prisoner of the South African regime to negotiator with them are fairly clear.

The popularity was reflected in a media hype of unprecedented saturation coverage. The Empire State Building lit up in ANC colours, and the importation, for the parade, of the ticker tape no longer used in Wall Street's electronic offices, helped contribute to an image of a bandwagon running out of control as every hobby horse in New York was hitched behind it.

Continuously, one heard it said on the subway, the buses and on "vox pops" on TV that people were "taking part in history" by being on the side.

walk to greet his motorcade. But the fact that what they were doing was applauding other people's making of history is perhaps indicative of how American politics has been reduced to spectator sport for the voters and a spectacle for the viewers. As in sports, the commentators usually make the running. In American coverage of the Middle East, not least in New York, the world has hitherto appeared as a dualistic contest between pro-Israeli angels and pro-PLO demons.

Mandela's visit broke new ground. His support for the PLO was not shamed, wrested from him by inquisitorial Zionists, but volunteered.

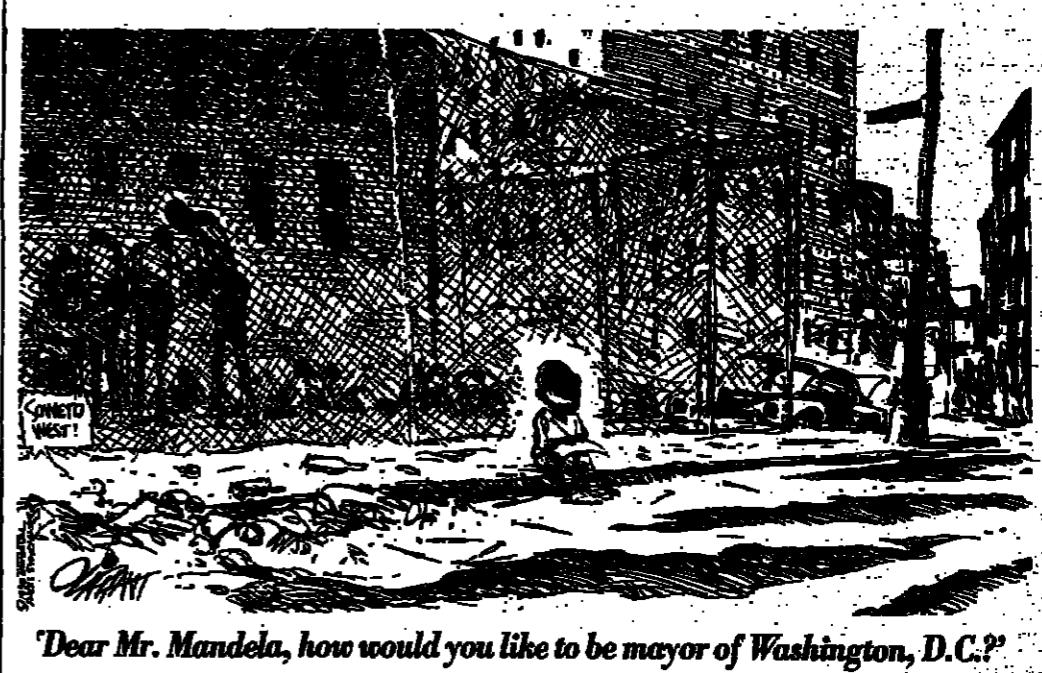
His address to the United Nations identified the ANC with

the PLO and Polisario. The objections to his support for the PLO came not from ordinary blacks, who seemed delighted to hear a politician saying what he believed rather than what his supporting PACs wanted. On the Ted Koppel Show, Mandela turned the tables on Israeli supporters, who taxed him with a lack of principle for supporting the likes of Qaddafi, Castro and Arafat. He pointed out that, firstly Libya had supported the ANC at a time when others did not, and second that the ANC had Jewish leaders. Indeed, he continued implacably, the ANC refused to open an office in Libya until Qaddafi agreed to let its Jewish members in.

His firm refusal to disavow alliance with the PLO was in

contrast to the compromise of most black American politicians in the Democratic Party. Like Mayor David Dinkins of New York, they profess almost unqualified support for Israel. Mandela's pronouncements are a reminder of the contortions implied by being 100 per cent anti-apartheid, while refusing to countenance any criticism of Israel. Since Israel is South Africa's closest military ally, and has probably colluded with it in nuclear testing, it is actively (increasingly single-handedly) making sanctions somewhat ineffective.

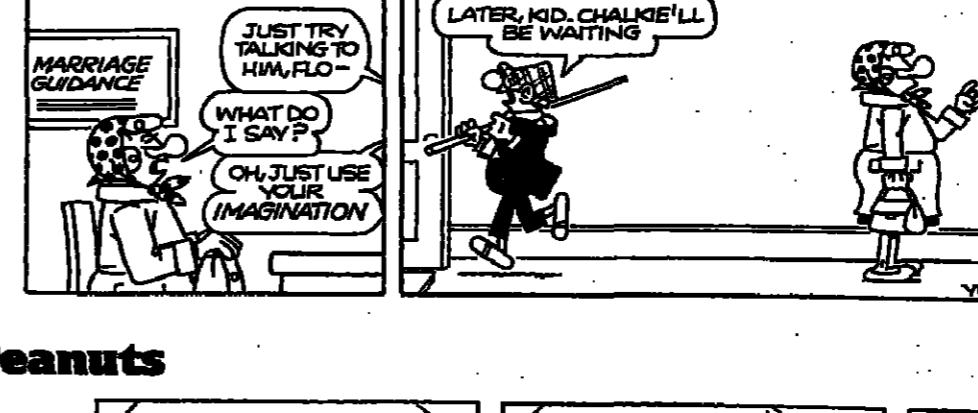
It remains to be seen whether black office holders will call the bluff of the Israeli lobbyists and show the same principles as Mandela.



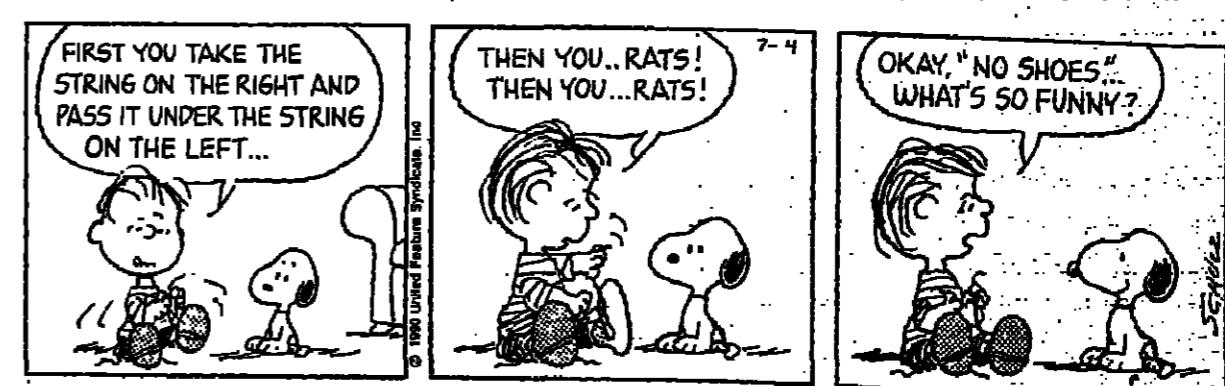
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



'Here are the bones; where are our dollars?'

By Tom Lansner
Reuter

PHNOM PENH — The smiling young man threaded his way between tables in a noisy restaurant in Phnom Penh and approached the only Westerner present.

"I must talk to you," he said in careful English over the chatter at the crowded table. He politely declined to sit down to join in a meal but finally accepted a glass of herbal wine. Then he repeated his request and added in a lowered voice: "but we cannot talk here. It is top secret."

In a country at war and rife with political unrest, it was hard to know what to expect. But the young man's mystery was not so unusual — his business was selling human bones.

The fastest growing business in Cambodia is not gold and is not diamonds," said a European diplomat here. "It is the trade in remains of American servicemen missing since the Vietnam war."

He may have been exaggerating, but residents say that as Washington shows signs of relenting in its refusal to deal with Phnom Penh on the issue, the morbid trade is blossoming.

The U.S. government lists 83 Americans as missing in action (MIA) in Cambodia — a small number compared with more than 1,500 in Vietnam and 500 in Laos.

Many of those unaccounted for are fliers whose planes were on missions over Vietnam and crashed before they could return to bases in Thailand and Laos. U.S. ground forces also briefly invaded Cambodia in May 1970.

Cambodia announced on June 24 the creation of a high-ranking commission to seek the remains of American servicemen. Officials say they already have 34 sets of "dogtags" — identity discs — and a number of remains they would like U.S. experts to examine.

The man with a secret got down to business at a rendezvous the next day. "We have the identification tags, the card, the gun, and the bones of an American pilot... can you take a piece of the bones to the committee and find out about the money?"

The money he asked about is the reward widely rumoured to be on offer in Indochina for the return of remains of American soldiers. The existence of a "committee" handing out the cash is another popular myth.

The rumour appears to have started after U.S. war veterans in the late 1980s threw notes in the Mekong River in Thailand and released balloons across the Laos border carrying messages offering

rewards for the return of a live U.S. prisoner of war.

The rumour is widely enough believed to encourage a lucrative trade in purported American remains, and U.S. military identification tags and cards, genuine or otherwise.

Some Cambodians leaving by boat to seek a new life in the West have taken along bones they hope to sell as U.S. remains.

An Australian relief official in Phnom Penh said: "People turn up at the door of relief agencies and say, 'here are some remains and where are our dollars?'"

The question of Americans missing in Indochina has been an emotional one in the United States and a delicate political issue since Washington has no diplomatic relations with Vietnam and does not recognise the Cambodian government in Phnom Penh.

Fast Cambodian offers to allow U.S. officials to help search for and test remains have been refused by the United States, worried it could imply recognition of Phnom Penh.

Washington supports the Cambodian Guerrilla coalition fighting to overthrow the government.

Describing the work of the new Cambodian commission, senior Foreign Ministry Official Uch Kim An said: "we are not setting up this commission just for propaganda purposes. We need the assistance of the United States to help find and identify the remains. We have no expertise in this," he added.

"We cannot be more humanitarian than the U.S. administration allows us to be," said Thon Hin, who handles the MIA issue as deputy director of the ministry's America and West Europe bureau.

"We don't demand that this be a political issue. We are ready to give the dogtags and remains we have to the U.S. government. All we do ask is that the United States send an official representative to deal with us on the matter."

On June 28, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon told a congressional committee in Washington that the United States was prepared to send technical experts to Phnom Penh as soon as possible.

He said: "In line with our long-standing policy, we are fully prepared to cooperate with officials in Phnom Penh to resolve the fate of Americans missing in Cambodia, as a separate humanitarian matter and despite our political differences with that regime."

FOR THE Palestine refugees, as for other homeless people, shelter has always been a primary concern of daily life.

At first, after their dispersal in 1948, the Palestine refugees lived in tents. In the mid-1950s, as

plight continued without solution, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) began to replace these tents with simple shelters. These usually consisted of one or two rooms — 3 by 4 metres in size — made of

cement-blocks or mud bricks, with corrugated iron, tile or reed roofing and wooden doors and windows.

Most of the Palestine refugees still living in camps today — some 820,000, or about a third of the total registered refugee population — still use these original units.

These basic rooms may long since have been absorbed into larger and sturdier living spaces built around them by the refugees since then, but somewhere inside each camp dwelling, the original "UNRWA unit" is more often than not still to be found in use.

Over time, these original rooms have deteriorated. Since 1982, UNRWA has helped the most disadvantaged refugees — the widows, the elderly, the sick and disabled, known to UNRWA as "special hardship cases" — to repair their shelters.

Now, with the help of special contributions from donors, special hardship cases in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are getting new, well-built rooms added to their shelters by UNRWA under the Agency's Expanded Programme of Assistance for the refugees in the Israeli-occupied territory.

This "shelter rehabilitation programme" is enabling the Agency to upgrade the housing accommodation of the neediest refugees — to provide them with decent living accommodation — albeit in circumstances designed to be a temporary measure pending a political solution of the Palestine problem.

Donations for shelter rehabilitation have come from the Arab Gulf state of Kuwait and have been pledged by the government of Italy. They are earmarked for the repair or reconstruction of unserviceable rooms in shelters inhabited by special hardship cases in camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Our aim is to ensure that these shelters have one decent room plus a 'sanitary core' — with a shower and toilet and a kitchen," explained UNRWA engineer Sean Collins, the Agency's Field Technical Officer in the West Bank. "These rooms are built to a much higher standard than the original shelters, which were not intended to last as long as they have."

"The first priority is that they should have at least one weatherproof room," added Jan Dahlman, UNRWA's Field Technical Officer in Gaza. "This means concrete roofing, with waterproofing, rather than the corrugated iron we used to use."

The new rooms are also better lit and ventilated than the old ones. Their windows are bigger and their ceilings higher. In the West Bank, aluminium windows are being installed while in Gaza wooden windows are being used because they are readily available locally.

In some cases, the existing shelters are in such bad condition that the new rooms, as well as the kitchen and sanitary block, must be built from scratch. In other cases, it is sufficient just to build either a new room or a toilet block or both and repair an existing room for use as a kitchen, according to Basel Hijazi, project engineer for the shelter rehabilitation unit in the West Bank. And, he adds, sometimes it is enough only to make repairs such as plastering or replacing doors or windows.

The programme is being carried out as funding is obtained. So far, Kuwait has donated \$1.4 million to UNRWA for the project — \$800,000 for shelter repairs in the Gaza Strip and \$574,000 for the West Bank. Italy has pledged \$1.2 million for Gaza and \$800,000 for the West Bank. The average cost of rehabilitat-

ing a shelter is \$5,500. UNRWA estimates that one quarter of the special hardship cases need shelter rehabilitation — which would mean at least 2,400 shelters in Gaza and 1,600 in the West Bank. The Kuwaiti donation will

pay for work on 131 shelters in Gaza and 94 in the West Bank. If funding materialises from the Italian pledge, as many as 200 additional shelters can be rehabilitated in Gaza, and another 130 or so in the West Bank — UNRWA.



Social workers make surveys in camps to identify special hardship cases most in need of shelter repairs (UNRWA photo)



UNRWA social workers follow up on the progress of construction as the work goes on (UNRWA photo)

Saudi Arabia goes totally 'natural'

By Doona Fenn Heintzel
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, is now protecting another natural resource — its diminishing wild-life population.

The oil boom and the rapid urban development that followed, catapulted the kingdom into the 20th century.

But the push to modernise trampled over ecological concerns and Saudi Arabia's vast expanses of desert are now virtually empty of game.

"Man has gone astray and indulged in unjustified systematic exploitation and depletion of natural resources," said Prince Saud Al Faisal, the foreign minister and managing director of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development.

Saud and others in the kingdom have looked to the Koran, Islam's holy book, for the conservation mandate.

"For there is not an animal on earth nor a creature flying on two wings, but they are peoples, like unto you," it says, "do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order."

Prince Saud, a driving force behind the commission formed four years ago, was speaking at the recent release of 19 Arabian oryx, a species of large white-coated, bi-horned antelope, in Mahazat As Sayed, a 2,200

square-kilometre protected area near the western mountain city of Taif.

The Saudi conservationists are also rare animals in captivity, setting up new protected areas, restoring natural habitat, and conducting an extensive public education campaign.

Saudi Arabia does not usually spring to mind as a country known for its wildlife. But, as well as the oryx, it is also home to the sand cat.

The ibex, or mountain goat, still roams the Northern Hejaz mountains and the Dorcas gazelle and sand gazelle can be found in remote southern areas.

Ironically, Saudi Arabia's initial concern for conservation came from hunters who noticed an alarming decrease in game. "Two of the protected areas in the north were suggested by eminent falconers from the royal family," said Abdulaziz Abu Zinada, the commission's secretary-general.

Even the commission's eight governors are avid hunters. Hunting, especially with falcons, has been part of Saudi culture for generations. But the introduction of firearms and four-wheel drive vehicles has tipped the ecological balance.

Gazelles, for example, were once so plentiful in the Eastern Province that hunters could fill pickups with game in a single afternoon.

Since there is no private ownership of rangelands, shepherds

graze their livestock wherever food is most abundant. There is little incentive for conservative land management.

Food supplements for livestock has also resulted in a larger animal population with less range to support them.

The commission plans to remedy that situation by setting up 120 protected areas. Seven have already been established.

The Kingdom is using an analytical approach that has not been applied anywhere else, said Graham Child, a Zimbabwean consultant with the commission.

"We're trying to analyse the country's biological and physical

characteristics so that the protected areas will represent all of the country's natural elements," he said.

Abu Zinada estimates this ambitious plan will take 15-20 years to implement.

Enforcing a system of protected areas will not be easy. Bedouins, accustomed to grazing their livestock where they please, will need appeasing.

"We're trying to choose areas where there's not so much potential for conflict," said John Granger, a British consultant.

"It's very important to have hunting laws" to keep hunters in check, Abu Zinada noted.



KGB adopts democratic role in the theatre of change in U.S.S.R.

By Bryan Brumley
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The general entrusted with improving the KGB's image acknowledges it will be hard to erase the terror implanted in the national consciousness by decades of official lawlessness.

"Violations of the law are a thing of the past, but the syndrome of fear unfortunately remains," Maj. Gen. Alexander N. Karbainov said in an interview.

"The KGB... still has the image of a terrible force," said Karbainov, head of the new KGB center for public relations.

His job is to change people's attitude toward the secret police agency that killed millions for Josef Stalin in the 1930s and 1940s, hounded dissidents until

the mid-1980s and died with foreign spies in the cold war.

The interview took place in Karbainov's office on the Third Floor of Lubyanka, the KGB headquarters. It is next to a corner office occupied by agency chiefs from the founder, Felix Dzerzhinsky, to Yuri Andropov, who became the Soviet leader in 1982.

The KGB, which has never disclosed its budget or number of employees, controls the domestic secret police, intelligence operations abroad, the units that guard Kremlin leaders, the border patrol and several infantry divisions.

It has branches in other institutions, including the armed forces, described in Soviet prison literature, were not on the tour.

Karbainov spoke of espionage struggles with the CIA and a former KGB general's allegation that his agency spied

on leaders of Soviet strike committees and people trying to form new parties.

He expressed opposition to proposals that the KGB's domestic and foreign operations be separated along the lines of the system in the United States, where the CIA operates abroad and the FBI acts domestically.

Lubyanka has been opened to a few Western reporters, and Karbainov said news conferences would be held there soon.

Officers of the committee for state security, initials KGB, revere Andropov and are restoring his suite — a small bedroom, a study and an office with a switchboard from which he could call KGB stations from San Francisco to Siberia. The new director has moved his office to a new building next door.

According to the KGB companion, Tolkachev was turned in by co-worker Anna Vladimirovna, who spotted him burning packets of money. Karbainov said the KGB version was accu-

red to tell you one figure... the sum of money deposited into his account by the CIA: \$2 million... this information is documented," Karbainov said, adding that the money went into a foreign bank.

Western agents have increased their activities against the Soviet Union in recent years, he said, and declared:

"American intelligence works well. I think that the closing stage of the cold war was accompanied by a certain activation of foreign intelligence agencies... in the Soviet Union and around the world."

He agreed with CIA official quoted in the KGB newspaper as saying in 1984: "not long ago, we had practically no agents in the socialist bloc, but now we have so many that we can barely run them. And each year, the number

of agents grows."

Karbainov's office has conducted a press campaign against Oleg D. Kalugin, a former KGB general who has urged that the agency be divided into domestic and foreign services to reduce its power.

In response to Kalugin and other reformers, Karbainov argued that intelligence and counterintelligence operations supplement each other and must remain within the same organization.

"Any separation of the functions, at least in the initial stages, reduces the viability of each part, the effectiveness of each part," he said. "It's like a human being. You can cut off his arms and legs. He is still a man, but he cannot move."

"In the United States, a different system developed from the

very beginning. ...we can't say that everything should be alike."

Kalugin accused the KGB of spying on the Russian Orthodox Church, leaders of strike committees and new political organisations that hope to compete with the Communist Party.

"It is a lie. A pure lie," Karbainov said. "In the 1930s, KGB organs had influence over all bodies, over government and party bodies. Practically, they were all instruments for strengthening the personal power of Stalin."

"Now, it is absolutely not the case. The organs of the KGB do not concern themselves with any social organisations."

Several days after the interview, at the behest of the KGB, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev stripped Kalugin of his rank and decorations, the government news agency TASS reported.

Syrian Jordanian, Jordan Gulf banks come on screen

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With Petra Bank out of the way facing a liquidation process, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has shifted its attention to the Jordan Gulf Bank and its merger with the Syrian Jordanian Bank seems to be on the cards, according to informed sources.

The CBJ, acting under a mandate from the Economic Security Committee (ESC), has already appointed new five-member management panel for the Jordan Gulf Bank, which was taken over by the ESC along with Petra Bank in August last year. The original idea was to merge the two banks, but the affairs of Petra Bank "were so much out of proportion" that the Jordan Gulf Bank would have "gone down with it if the merger was carried out," said a highly-informed banking source.

According to the source as well as a senior official at the Jordan Gulf Bank, the main problem with the Jordan Gulf Bank is bad debts to the tune of almost JD 27 million. "Unlike Petra Bank, there is no evidence of any outright embezzlement or misuse of funds," said the official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"True, the Jordan Gulf Bank was, to a large extent, manipulated by the former management (of Ahmad Chalabi) of Petra Bank and found itself in trouble, but it can also be argued that the former management of (Hassan Abdul Aziz) was a victim of circumstances," he added.

According to CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, the shares of Jordan Gulf are a total write-off for its owners (so were those of the Petra Bank).

In any event, according to economists, sorting out the affairs of Jordan Gulf should not pose a real problem. "In fact, the situation is more or less clear after most of the books of accounts of the bank have been scrutinised thoroughly by auditors and there are three main proposals," said the source.

One is to revamp the institution, which might need an immediate cash injection of about JD 10 million, and run it as an independent bank; the second is to sell it on a "as-is-where-is-basis"; and the third idea is to bring about a merger with another bank.

Banking sources expected the third formula to be favoured, particularly that is could also help streamline another bank, the Syrian Jordanian Bank, which, as one source put it, "has not exactly been able to realise the objectives for which it has been created."

The source noted that Hisham Safadi, director-general of the Syrian Jordanian Bank, has been appointed member of the new management board of the Jordan Gulf Bank and that it could be taken as one sign of a possible merger between the two banks.

But, a senior official at the Jordan Syrian Bank said, "it is only an idea; nothing has really been discussed or finalised."

Cinema	RAINBOW	Tel: 625155
1) PICASSO TRIGGER		At 3:30 - 6:30
2) BEVERLY HILLS		At 8:30 p.m.

Dureld Lahham /
Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

ILO statistics show precarious jobs rising

GENEVA (R) — More people in Western Europe than ever before are working in part-time or temporary jobs, without pensions or social security benefits, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said.

The so-called precarious jobs, including work at home and self-employment, steadily eroded stable wage employment in many countries during the 1970s and 1980s, it said in a report.

The most recent statistics, for 1985, put the Netherlands at the top of the list, with 22.6 per cent of all wage employment classed as part-time, followed by Britain with 21.8 per cent.

West Germany had 12.3 per cent, France 10.5 per cent and Belgium 9.3 per cent.

The share of women in part-

time employment ranged from 51 per cent in the Netherlands to 21 per cent in France.

High unemployment had weakened the position of job-seekers, making it possible for employers to offer less attractive terms, the ILO said. "Growth of precarious jobs can thus be directly linked to rising unemployment."

It noted that labour inspection services had not grown or been strengthened in the same proportion as precarious work had developed, "even though it is widely admitted that this form of employment is highly vulnerable to abuse."

The trend also had drawbacks for employers, the ILO said. Increasing short-term workers were not highly productive and their motivation was likely to be weak.

Privatisation bill takes Poland down capitalist road

WARSAW (R) — Poland took a giant new step down the road from communism to capitalism Friday when the lower house of parliament approved a bill to privatise the economy and hand out free shares to every adult Pole.

Ex-communists and the allies, who control 65 per cent of the Sejm (lower house) seats, joined forces with Solidarnosc in voting to dismantle the state-controlled economy they built up over 45 years.

The vote on the long-awaited law "on privatising state enterprises" — the centrepiece of the government's ambitious economic restructuring plans — was an overwhelming 328 to two with 39 abstentions.

The Sejm voted separately to create a ministry of ownership transformation to take charge of the privatisation process.

Both measures must still pass the Solidarity-controlled Senate (upper house) but Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz told the Sejm Thursday the government wanted to privatise the economy faster than any other country.

The vote was a boost for the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki after three months' wrangling over the bill in commission.

It switches the emphasis of the government's activity to economic restructuring after six months of austerity that has curbed hyper-inflation but caused hardship by slashing output and real incomes 30 per cent and creating 570,000 jobless.

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LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Swiss

Liberté... Libertés!



Je ne cesse pas de le dire à mes amis: je porte une estime profonde, voire une admiration pour la Révolution française qui vient de fêter son 170e anniversaire. L'année dernière j'ai eu l'occasion, le 14 juillet, de voir les Français fêter le bicentenaire de la Révolution, place de la Bastille. Les jours et les semaines se sont succédés et je croyais que l'année 1989 ne connaît pas de développements particuliers dans qu'elle arrive deux siècles après 1789. Le séisme politique qui a ravagé les pays de l'Europe de l'Est, les trois derniers mois de l'année dernière, a bien prouvé que les idéaux de 1789 sont toujours vivants.

La semaine dernière encore, le 26e sommet de l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine a adopté une résolution principale réaffirmant que «la démocratie doit être adoptée partout en Afrique».

Où en est la situation des libertés dans notre pays? Il est certain qu'on ne peut pas faire le tour d'un sujet aussi vaste en quelques lignes ou en quelques pages. Nous prenons comme point d'appui l'interview que le député Ahmed Al-Azaydeh, président de la commission des libertés publiques au sein de la chambre des députés a accordé à notre confrère «Al-Dustour» le 13 juillet dernier. Il a parlé des «nombreuses difficultés» que la commission a rencontré dans son travail. Il affirme que «la plupart des administrations n'appliquent pas les directives gouvernementales dans le domaine de la réintroduction des fonctionnaires démis de leur postes pour des raisons politiques. Il dénonce la «grande lenteur avec laquelle on applique les mesures concernant les libertés publiques».

Ce sont quelques déclarations prononcées par M. Al-Azaydeh. Certes, cela ne veut pas dire que rien n'a été réalisé depuis novembre dernier. Nous avions l'occasion d'en évoquer précédemment. Mais l'amertume qui se cache derrière les propos du député s'explique par le fait que le progrès réalisé au niveau des libertés a été très limité et incertain. De plus les promesses faites par le gouvernement début janvier n'ont pas encore été tenues. A titre d'exemple, une promesse a été faite au parlement et au peuple selon laquelle les lois martiales seront levées dans quatre à six mois. Le délai a expiré et le gel des lois martiales n'a pas été remplacé par une annulation de ces lois. Durant les mois précédents une trentaine de livres se sont vus interdits d'entrée dans le pays, dont un sur la crise de l'économie jordanienne.

Qu'avons nous fait pour supprimer l'immunité des décisions administratives du gouvernement, réforme indispensable pour rendre justice à des milliers de citoyens? Quelles sont les garanties accordées pour protéger les droits et les libertés des citoyens contre la violation des droits de l'homme?

Les citoyens comprennent que la solution des problèmes économiques prend du temps. Mais, comment expliquer la lenteur dont parle M. Al-Azaydeh dans le domaine des libertés? Oui, nous jouissons de plus de liberté qu'avant novembre 1989, mais celle-ci n'est pas encore codifiée ni garantie définitivement. Surtout à la lumière des expériences vécues précédemment. Certains rapports publiés récemment sur la situation des droits de l'homme en Jordanie nous font réfléchir plus.

Je n'arrive pas à imaginer que la levée des lois martiales soit si compliquée et épénante qu'on ne soit pas arrivé à la réaliser dans le délai des six mois promis par le premier ministre le 2 janvier dernier, devant les députés. Cela m'entraîne à me rappeler de la facilité et de la rapidité avec lesquelles on a décreté ces mêmes lois martiales, le 5 juin 1987.

Bref, il est temps d'attirer l'attention sur les effets négatifs qu'entraîne le piétinement de la situation des libertés chez nous. Déjà, certains milieux constatent -peut-être hâtivement- que le changement qui a eu lieu depuis l'automne dernier est de pure forme. Il n'y a pas encore de raisons valables pour être si pessimiste. Nous croyons résolument que le processus de démocratisation en cours est irréversible. Il faut toujours savoir défendre la démocratie. Celle-ci a toujours des ennemis, comme elle a toujours des amis.

France-Jordanie : plus solidaires que jamais

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, Le Jourdain dresse l'état des lieux des relations franco-jordanienes: malgré un contexte difficile, elles sont au beau fixe.

Contre mauvaise fortune, bon cœur. C'est un peu l'esprit des relations franco-jordanienes ces derniers temps.

La Jordanie est plongée dans une crise économique importante marquée par un des endettements les plus importants du monde (350% du PNB) et par la récente dévaluation du dinar. Côté français, l'attente d'un individu illuminé contre deux autocars de touristes à Amman, le 21 mai dernier, a provoqué une émotion certaine sur le moment. Mais ces événements n'ont en rien entaché les relations économiques, culturelles et politiques entre les deux pays. Ils semblent même les avoir renforcées dans une certaine mesure.

La France a été très sensible à la solidarité et à la compassion des autorités et du peuple jordanien, qui ont tous condamné l'attentat et ont aidé l'ambassade de France à ramener cette affaire aux proportions qu'elle méritait: celle d'un acte isolé sans aucune signification idéologique ou politique. Le roi Hussein a témoigné sa sympathie et celle de son peuple envers les malheureux touristes et la France en général.

La politique française au Moyen-Orient reçoit un accueil favorable des autorités d'Amman.

On apprécie ici les prises de position de la France en faveur du droit du peuple palestinien à disposer d'un territoire. La politique française de dialogue avec l'OLP, caractérisée notamment par la rencontre entre le président François Mitterrand et Yasser Arafat à Paris, le 2 mai 1989, témoigne de l'intérêt porté par la France au sort du peuple palestinien. Signe des bonnes relations entre la France et la Jordanie, les fréquentes visites officielles ou privées du Roi Hussein à Paris qui prennent la forme de véritables réunions de travail efficaces et constructives. Depuis 1985, il ne s'est pas passé une année sans que sa Majesté ne rencontre le président Mitterrand à Paris. En effet, François Mitterrand a effectué une visite officielle à Amman en juillet 1984 et de nombreuses visites de ministres ou hauts responsables français sont venues entremettre les relations franco-jordanienes.

En dehors des programmes en français fournis gratuitement à la Jordanie par le satellite de Canal

France International, le service culturel français consacre un million de francs à la radio-télévision jordanienne. Signe intéressant, de plus en plus de Jordaniens apprennent le français qui est aujourd'hui la deuxième langue étrangère en Jordanie après l'anglais. Ils sont 15.000 dans les écoles et collèges privés, 900 dans le primaire et secondaire public, 250 à l'université du Yarmouk, 230 à celle de Mota et 15 à l'université de Jordanie. Il faut y ajouter les 600 élèves qui suivent les cours du Centre Culturel Français. Pour développer cet enseignement, la France fournit des professeurs, des bourses d'étude en France pour les élèves et les professeurs et un bureau d'action linguistique qui offre des conseils et du matériel pédagogique. Pour continuer à développer les séjours d'étudiants jordaniens en France malgré le gel budgétaire, le service culturel français a inauguré l'an dernier un système d'échange d'étudiants entre des universités françaises et les universités jordanienes. L'été dernier, quatre étudiants français de l'université de Lyon II et quatre étudiants jordaniens de l'université du Yarmouk ont échangé leur place tous frais (sauf le voyage) payés par l'université d'accueil. Cette année ils seront six de part et d'autre à faire cet échange et d'autres accords de ce type sont en vue entre un lycée technique et commercial de Strasbourg ou l'Ecole des langues orientales de

Paris d'une part et les universités du Yarmouk ou de Jordanie d'autre part.

Les relations économiques entre la Jordanie et la France auraient pu souffrir de la crise économique jordanienne. De fait la commission mixte chargée de travailler à développer les échanges économiques franco-jordaniens -prévue dans un accord commercial publié au Journal Officiel français il y a tout juste un an, le 14 juillet 1989- n'a toujours pas tenu sa première réunion. Pourtant, les ventes de produits jordaniens à la France et de produits français à la Jordanie n'ont cessé de s'accroître: ils se montent à 104.000 F dans le premier cas (7,3% par rapport à 1988) et à 2,1 millions de F dans le second (40%). La Jordanie exporte des phosphates, de la potasse, des engrangements et des fruits et légumes de contre-saison. La France exporte des produits agro-alimentaires (notamment du sucre et du poulet) ainsi que des produits pharmaceutiques, entre autres.

Malgré la crise, la Jordanie a acheté à la France six Airbus A310. Elle a également commandé six A320 dont deux ont déjà été livrés, et cinq A340 dont les livraisons commenceront à partir de 1995. Récemment, la Compagnie Royal Jordanian a acheté deux simulateurs de vol électroniques au groupe français Thomson.

Elle les utilise pour la formation de ses propres pilotes mais elle les loue aussi pour celles des pilotes de compagnies étrangères, y compris Air-France, qui viennent donc à Amman accomplir leurs stages lorsque les simulateurs nationaux sont saturés.

Les vols réguliers qui relient plusieurs fois par semaine Amman à Paris symbolisent bien les liens et la communication entre les peuples qui unissent la Jordanie à la France. En 1989, 15.610 Français sont entrés en Jordanie soit 26% de plus qu'en 1988. Nous sommes encore derrière les Allemands, les Italiens et les Anglais, mais la progression montre bien que les Français sont de plus en plus nombreux à apprécier la chaleur et l'accueil du peuple jordanien.

EN BREF

CEE-Aide. La CEE va accorder une aide non remboursable d'un montant de 1,8 millions d'ECUs (2 millions de dollars) à la Jordanie. Cette somme est destinée à soutenir la politique d'éducation jordanienne par un programme triennal d'assistance technique et de formation à l'étranger.

Défense. La confrérie des Frères musulmans, qui dispose du quart des 80 sièges de la chambre des députés jordanienne, a appelé le gouvernement jordanien à entraîner les citoyens et à les armer afin de faire face à Israël. La confrérie réclame également l'annulation du festival de Jerash, qui a débuté mercredi et doit se terminer le 27 juillet, invitant les Jordaniens à le boycotter car elle estime que son maintien représente un comportement désinvolte par rapport aux défis auxquels nous faisons face.

Islamistes. Les municipalités de la côte oranaise, dans l'ouest de l'Algérie, seront désormais privées de musique Raï, les nouveaux responsables communautaires du Front Islamique de Salut (FIS) ayant décidé de «supprimer toutes les activités culturelles n'ayant aucune répercussion bénéfique sur la vie des citoyens» de la région. A la place de cette musique contestataire de «Chebs» (jeunes) chantant l'amour de la femme, le spleen et la révolte des jeunes défavorisés au sein de la société algérienne, les nouvelles autorités municipales cherchent à promouvoir une autre musique, la «Ounchouda al-Watania al-Islamiya» (chanson patriote islamique).

Pétrole. Les cinq pays arabes du Golfe membres de l'OPEP (Arabie Saoudite, Irak, Koweït, Emirats Arabes Unis et Qatar) ont décidé d'accorder désormais la priorité au réajustement du prix du brut. Bagdad envisage même la possibilité d'une coordination directe avec l'Iran dans le domaine pétrolier, après des années de conflit entre les deux pays. Cette décision des cinq pays qui assurent près de 60% de la production de l'OPEP, est le résultat d'une série de tractations difficiles menées depuis plusieurs semaines.

Sommet. Les sept pays les plus industrialisés de l'Occident ont reconnu, à l'issue de leur sommet à Houston (USA), la nécessité d'effectuer «des réductions substantielles et progressives du soutien et de la protection» de leurs agricultures. Les sept ont par ailleurs demandé à plusieurs organisations internationales d'effectuer une étude des besoins d'assistance de l'URSS, en consultation étroite avec la Commission des communautés européennes.

URSS. Boris Eltsine, président de la fédération de Russie, a annoncé jeudi soir devant le 28e congrès du Parti Communiste d'Union Soviétique (PCUS), qu'il quittait le parti communiste. «Dans le cadre du passage de la société au multipartisme et de mes obligations en tant que président de la fédération de Russie», a-t-il indiqué, «je ne peux accepter la candidature au comité central du PCUS et je demande à quitter le parti pour avoir d'avantage de possibilités de mener une action efficace et montrer ma disponibilité à travailler en collaboration avec tous les autres partis et organisations sociales.»

Déficit. La valeur des importations soviétiques a dépassé en 1989 celle des exportations de l'URSS de 3,3 milliards de roubles (5,2 milliards de dollars), pour la première fois depuis 1976. Les importations soviétiques ont augmenté de 7,1 milliards de roubles (11,3 milliards de dollars) par rapport à 1988. Il s'agit principalement de biens de consommation.

Albanais. Dix jours après s'être réfugié dans les missions diplomatiques d'Italie, de RFA et de France dans la capitale albanaise, environ 4.000 Albanais ont pris depuis jeudi le chemin de l'exil, à la faveur d'une importante opération d'évacuation par mer vers l'Italie et vers la France. Toutes les dispositions ont été prises pour les accueillir en France. Une fois installés, lavés, nourris, reposés et habillés de neuf, ils devront remplir les premières formalités pour leur installation en France. Et tenter de s'habituer à leur nouvelle existence de liberté et d'exil.

Cubains. Un Cubain âgé de 27 ans s'est réfugié mercredi soir à l'ambassade d'Espagne à La Havane pour demander l'asile politique dans un pays occidental. Ce nouveau réfugié porte à quinze le nombre total de Cubains actuellement réfugiés dans des représentations étrangères à La Havane. Quatorze se sont en effet réfugiés dans l'ambassade de Tchécoslovaquie, dont sept depuis lundi.

Rideau. Une petite lueur de culture française va s'éteindre à New-York: le cinéma «Paris», qui projetait depuis 42 ans principalement des films francophones, va devoir fermer ses portes faute d'avoir pu s'entendre avec son propriétaire pour le renouvellement du bail. Construit par la compagnie française Pathé en 1948 au cœur de Manhattan, à deux pas de l'hôtel Plaza, ce cinéma d'art et essai fermera à la fin août. Le Paris, qui projette actuellement «Les enfants du Paradis», avait été inauguré par la grande actrice Marlene Dietrich.

Johnny. Le chanteur de rock français Johnny Halliday, a épousé lundi en troisièmes noces, à l'âge de 47 ans, une jeune femme de 19 ans, Adeline Blondieau, devant des personnalités du show business et plusieurs milliers d'admirateurs en délire. Après le traditionnel «Oui», prononcé timidement par Johnny, et de façon plus appuyée par Adeline, visiblement moins impressionnée, les mariés ont été ovationnés par plus de 3.000 fans massés de part et d'autre de la mairie de Ramatuelle.

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Aqaba

Escale jordanienne de la Marine française

Pompon rouge, col bleu et pantalon blanc, vous les avez peut-être croisés, la semaine dernière, dans les rues d'Aqaba ou d'Amman. Ce sont les marins du «Marn» et du «Commandant Duccing», deux navires militaires français venus faire escale pour quatre jours dans le port d'Aqaba.

Immense bâtiment de 18.000 tonnes, le «Marn» a l'envergure et la baigne d'un bon père de famille. C'en est un en quel-

que sorte. C'est lui qui nourrit la flotte de l'Océan indien, la ravitaillant régulièrement en vivres, en carburant et en munitions. C'est lui aussi qui incarne l'autorité sur l'ensemble de cette flotte puisque, en plus de ses fonctions de ravitailleur, il présente la particularité d'accueillir en permanence à son bord le commandement général des forces maritimes de l'Océan indien avec tout son Etat-Major.

Ce cas unique de cohabitation

s'explique par le fait que l'Océan indien est la seule zone maritime où la France n'avait pas d'installations terrestres où puise s'établir un poste de commandement. Plutôt que d'en construire un de toute pièce, on a donc préféré l'installer sur le ravitailleur, leur moyennant quelques aménagements.

«Ce qui compte pour exercer le commandement, explique l'Amiral Pierre Bonnot, c'est d'avoir de bonnes liaisons avec les bateaux que l'on commande et avec les autorités de métropole. Dès lors que ces liaisons sont bonnes - et elles le sont - peu importe que l'on soit ici ou ailleurs, en déplacement permanent sur notre zone.» Via stellite, en effet, le bateau est en liaison constante avec la France, que ce soit par téléphone, fax-simile ou télexscripteur.

Pour approvisionner tous ses bateaux, le ravitailleur «Marn» fait lui-même le plein de ses immenses soutes, tous les deux mois environ, à Djibouti sous port d'attache. Il y reçoit des conteneurs de vivres acheminés depuis la France par avion. Il remplit ses cuves d'eau et de pétrole... Et le voilà reparti pour deux mois de mer, à la disposition de tous les bateaux militaires (français ou alliés) qui sonnent faire appel à lui.

Le «Commandant Duccing» est celui qui accompagne le «Marn» à Aqaba. Là, l'espace est réduit et rentabilisé au maximum: les 90 hommes de l'équipage vivent dans une promiscuité extrême mais bien acceptée, avec des lits de quatre étages superposés et de petites armoires, d'un mètre de haut sur cinquante centimètres de large et de profondeur, pour ranger leurs affaires personnelles.

L'armement aussi semble à l'étranger sur un si petit bâtiment: une tourelle avec un canon de 100mm pour riposter en cas d'attaque aérienne, deux lanceurs de missiles mer-mer et deux lance-torpilles de chaque côté du bateau. A quoi s'ajoute une série de radars et de sonars détecteurs, avions, bateaux et sous-marins des environs, qui sont représentés automatiquement sur une table traçante électronique.

Toutes ces machineries, toutes ces fonctions (conduite du bateau, ravitaillage, commandement...) nécessitent un équipage important. Deux-cent personnes vivent en permanence sur le «Marn», qui prend de ce fait des allures de ville flottante. Sur ce que les marins surnomment eux-mêmes la «place du village», à Amman ou dans le Wadi-Rum, au cœur du bateau, on trouve un

salon de coiffure, un bureau de poste, un «cinéma» (en fait, une salle vidéo) et une «mairie» (le service administratif qui se charge de toutes les formalités des marins). Le navire a ses cuisiniers, son boulanger, ses électriques, sa blanchisserie. Il dispose même d'un hôpital, avec un chirurgien et un docteur, dont peuvent bénéficier les malades graves de n'importe quel bateau, qui sont acheminés d'urgence par l'hélicoptère du «Marn», pilote permanent, lui aussi, avec son pilote et ses mécaniciens.

Doté d'un studio de télévision, le bateau confectionne lui-même

son propre journal télévisé, avec des nouvelles du bord et du monde entier, grâce aux débâches de l'AFP reçues en temps réel. Il y a même un jeu télévisé fait sur place, des documentaires et des films sur télécopieur.

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Le «Marn» peut ravitailler jusqu'à trois bâtiments simultanément, l'un à babord, l'autre à tribord et le dernier à l'arrière. Lorsque les quatre bateaux sont en place et avancent à la même vitesse dans la même direction, le ravitailleur largue de gros tubes de caoutchouc que les ravitaillées adaptent sur leurs propres soutes. Les liquides passent alors automatiquement d'un réservoir à l'autre à un débit de 600m³ à l'heure. Transportant des matières inflammables, le «Marn» est équipé d'un système de sécurité qui remplit, au fur et à mesure, le vide qui se fait dans les cuves avec du CO₂ pour éviter le contact explosif du pétrole restant avec l'air.

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Jean-Marc Bordes

Femmes jordanienes

Unies pour vivre mieux

Développer les aptitudes des femmes, mettre en place des comités qui les représentent dans les réunions locales, arabes et internationales, leur faciliter la vie de tous les jours, c'est la mission que s'est donnée l'Union des femmes jordanienes. Après un peu moins de dix ans de fonctionnement, l'association connaît un franc succès.

Fondée en 1981, l'Union des femmes est une organisation féminine qui réunit des associations, des clubs, des institutions sociales et des membres libres.

Cet organisme ne recherche pas le profit. Son but est d'assurer de l'emploi à plusieurs femmes, de constituer une caisse de crédit pour aider les femmes pauvres à réaliser de petites entreprises productives et d'augmenter les revenus de l'Union pour l'aider à accomplir d'autres missions.

Huit personnes sont employées à temps plein, de 8h à 14h au PPA: la directrice, une comptable, trois cuisinières, deux ouvrières et un chauffeur. Leurs produits se vendent bien, aux hommes comme aux femmes. Les ventes ont crû de 30% environ depuis le démarrage du projet grâce au soin apporté à la propriété de la préparation et à la qualité des produits utilisés.

35 associations, six clubs et quelques milliers de membres libres de toutes les régions du royaume adhèrent à cette union, dont les bureaux administratifs se trouvent à Amman, mais qui a des succursales à Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba, Balka, Karak, Tafila et Mafrak.

Pour servir la femme, l'union a mis en place, en 1989, un projet de production alimentaire. À l'origine, il s'agissait d'une simple cuisine dans laquelle travaillaient deux ouvrières. Avec l'aide financière de l'Organisation économique de l'ouest asiatique (l'organisation des Nations Unies, ASCO) et l'aide de l'union des femmes jordanienes, ce Projet de Produc-

tion Alimentaire (PPA) présente aujourd'hui des repas tout prêts à des prix raisonnables, pour les femmes qui travaillent.

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(Mes cris
Feriscono
Come fulmini
La campana fissa
Del cielo
Sprofondo
Impaurite.)

Blessent
Tels l'éclair
La cloche
Du ciel
De peur
S'abîment)

Dans la vie, il nous arrivera de crier notre chagrin au ciel, avec le sentiment d'être victimes d'événements plus grands que nous et très injustes; «M'illumino d'immenso» (En moi s'allume l'immensité) nous aidera à retrouver Dieu malgré tout.

Je me demande à combien de fillettes elle a fait ce même cadeau et si toutes s'en rappellent.

Vale, Egeria

A L'AFFICHE

POUSSES

Jazz à Jerash

Un maître à quatre mailloches

Bien qu'il ait la même forme, qu'il soit construit sur les mêmes principes, et que ses lames répondent à des coups de baguette identiques, le vibraphone dont Gary Burton jouera les 15 et 16 juillet à Jerash, est bien plus qu'un xylophone amélioré. Fait de métal et de bois, cet instrument de percussion inventé en 1920 aux États-Unis est un vrai enfant du 20e siècle. Ses résonances sont réglées par un système électro-mécanique. Il exige une agilité de jeu à couper le souffle.

Gary Burton au titre de maître contemporain du vibraphone joue depuis une trentaine d'années. Il avait dix-sept ans quand il commença; il est âgé de 46 ans aujourd'hui. Fété par les critiques de jazz, il a fait plus que faire preuve de virtuosité pour valoir leurs éloges. Il a accompagné un pas sans précédent à l'égard de cet instrument: il l'a transformé d'instrument de percussion en instrument de mélodie.

Ce fut un grand bond, au cours de son intégration dans les jazz-bands, le vibraphone a connu des maîtres (Lionel Hampton, Red Norvo, Milt Jackson) mais c'est grâce à une prodigieuse technique que Burton a pu amplifier les ressources musicales de l'instrument. Un emploi simultané de quatre mailloches au lieu des deux baguettes traditionnelles l'a mené à la création d'harmonies insolites.

Caliné par Burton, le vibraphone offre les mêmes richesses qu'un piano. Cette façon originale d'en jouer remonte à ses débuts musicaux.

Bill Evans, pianiste novateur des années 1950, l'éveilla à une conception pianistique de l'instrument. Ce seront des roulades lestes que Burton réveillera dans son vibraphone. Quant à son raffinement mélodique, il le doit au stage (1964-1966) qu'il avait fait avec le grand sax, Stan Getz.

A Jerash, Burton jouera avec le groupe qu'il a formé l'année dernière, The Gary Burton Quintet. Tandis que la batterie de Martin Richards et la basse de Larry Grenadier se limiteront au rôle traditionnel de pulsateurs de rythme, le vibraphone de Burton entreprendra des dialogues harmoniques avec deux instruments de mélodie, la guitare de Wolfgang Muthspiel et le sax ténor de Don McCaslin. Parmi leurs mélodies, il interprétera des compositions d'un ancien du groupe, la superstar du jazz rock, Pat Metheny. Que ce dernier soit au programme de Burton va sans dire, car le style jazz-rock porte la signature de Burton, qui fut, en 1967, le devancier de ce mouvement des années 70, quand il ajouta à ses compositions de jazz des éléments de country et de rock, remarquant qu'ils avaient tous des racines communes dans l'histoire de la musique afro-américaine.

Pour ceux à qui le mot jazz-rock évoque une soirée rançue et bruyante, et qui espèrent y participer, mieux vaut qu'ils restent chez eux: ils seront déçus. Le Gary Burton Quintet a un autre dessin, une soirée de grand calme. Rassemblé autour du vibraphoniste scintillant, ce groupe promet que, de son jeu se déchaîneront des mélodies apaisantes à l'extrême.

Des harmonies. Des harmonies d'une soirée d'été.

Sami Kamal

CONCERTS

Jazz-France L'Ambassade de France présentera au festival de Jerash, avec le concours d'Air-France, le trio de guitare de Christian Escoudé, accompagné pour l'occasion par le grand accordéoniste, Marcel Azzaola.

Jerash, les samedis 21 et dimanche 22 juillet à 21h30. Prix des places: 3 JD.

Jazz-USA. Le Gary Burton Quintet présente ses meilleurs morceaux au festival de Jerash à l'initiative du Centre Culturel Américain. Voir Focus.

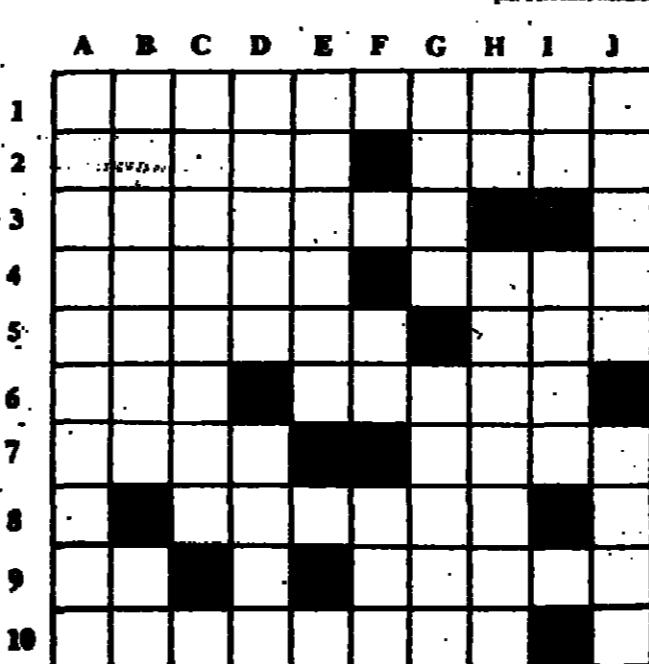
Jerash, les dimanches 15 et lundi 16 juillet, de 21h30 à 23h. Prix des places: 3 JDs.

DIVERS

Guerre. Série documentaire télévisée sur la Deuxième guerre mondiale, diffusée en douze épisodes de deux heures chacun, à raison d'un par jour. Deux séances quotidiennes: à 10h et à 17h. Centre culturel britannique, tous les jours ouvrables des mois de juillet et août

Mots croisés

par Florence Massell



Horizontalement:

1: fredonne; 2: cuire; 3: confort; 4: dans la veste;

5: pierres encastrees;

6: brame; 7: vieilles colères; 8: annonce;

9: ayant approuvé; 10: dans la fleur.

Verticalement:

A: abomination; B: séduire;

C: séduites; D: réfuter;

E: virage de siseur; F: rançons;

G: faire voler les Américains;

H: négation; I: décorer; J: spécialité; K: sacré; L: plantée; M: éprouve.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 18:

Horizontalement:

1: instrument; 2: mourir; 3: faire;

4: os; 5: utile; 6: rues;

7: INA; 8: salira; 9:

10: essentiels.

Verticalement:

A: impossible; B: nous;

C: stir; D: très; E: rompus;

F: usent; G: ni; H: entortiller;

I: rues; J: rues; K: tisserards.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

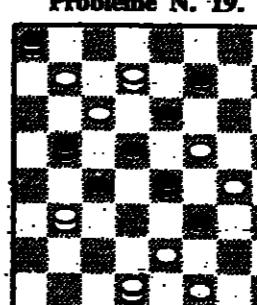
Sieste. Les pilotes de ligne sont plus en forme pour l'atterrissement après un petit somme, selon une enquête réalisée par la NASA. De brefs périodes de repos font l'effet de «soupapes» contre la fatigue et augmentent la vigilance des pilotes au moment de la phase délicate de descente. Habituellement, seuls les équipages des appareils de transport militaire sont autorisés à prendre des périodes de repos pendant les vols aux États-Unis, mais cette pratique a déjà été mise en application par des compagnies aériennes d'autres pays.

Coeur. Un appareil d'assistance cardiaque, jouant le rôle d'un cœur artificiel, a pour la première fois été implanté par une équipe américaine afin de pouvoir être implanté directement dans le corps du patient, lui redonnant son autonomie. Les coeurs artificiels existants jusqu'à présent pesaient plus de 150Kg, contre 700g pour ce nouvel appareil.

Espace. Des molécules de monoxide de carbone viennent d'être détectées par une équipe franco-américaine dans un quasar situé à quatre milliards d'années lumineuses de la Terre. Ces molécules sont les plus lointaines jamais observées jusqu'à présent. Elles l'ont été grâce au radiotélescope millimétrique franco-allemand installé près de Grenade, en Espagne.

DAMES

Problème N. 19.



Sports

Lemond, Breukink turn Tour de France upside down

ST ETIENNE, France (R) — A remarkable break-away by last year's Tour de France winner Greg Lemond and Dutch rider Eric Breukink turned this year's race upside down on a sweltering hot day Saturday.

The 13th stage from Villard-de-Lans was expected to be a leisurely 149-kilometer passage from the Alps to the Massif Central over fairly undemanding terrain.

But Lemond, chasing his third tour victory, had other ideas.

Pursued by Breukink, he attacked like a man possessed and finally left the two runaway tour leaders Claudio Chiappucci of Italy and Roman Pensec of France stranded.

Chiappucci, who took the yellow jersey in Thursday's time trial, trailed in four minutes 53 seconds behind and Pensec saw his chances of overall victory evaporate when he struggled in some seven minutes 47 seconds down.

Chiappucci retained his yellow jersey but found his lead over Breukink slashed from six minutes 55 seconds to just two minutes two seconds.

Lemond lies a most dangerous third, just two minutes 34 seconds behind with Pensec fourth at 4:11 and Pedro Delgado of Spain, the 1988 tour winner, fifth at 4:39.

Delgado counter-attacked desperately as Lemond and Breukink threatened to go well clear and finally limited the damage to 30 seconds.

Norris retains boxing crown

ANNECY, France (R) — American Terry Norris outclassed Frenchman Rene Jacquot to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight title Friday.

Norris, 23, twice sent his opponent to the canvas in the opening rounds but had to contend in the end with a unanimous points decision over Jacquot.

He was defending a crown won with first round knock-out of Ugandan John Mugabi in Tampa, Florida, on March 31.

The three judges awarded him between eight and thirteen points more than the Frenchman, a former world champion.

Norris used his superior speed and power to take command of the fight from the start. Two minutes and thirty seconds into the first round, he floored Jacquot with a combination that ended with a savage right hook to the Frenchman's temple.

But the 28-year-old Jacquot was back on his feet before the ten-second count and managed to hold on until the bell.

lining the route to celebrate the French national holiday, Bastille Day.

He stormed away on the gentle slopes of the Col d'Arodix and gained one minute 24 seconds on Chiappucci, a margin which would have given him back the race lead.

But it turned out to be his swansong. Lemond and a group of pursuers caught him with 45 kilometers to go and he could not sustain their furious pace on a day when temperatures rose to around 35 degrees Celsius.

The American had a bunch of 13 other riders with him at that stage but one by one they fell back until they were down to five with another small group led by Delgado and Tour of Italy winner Gianni Bugno just behind on the descent into St Etienne.

Lemond, who barely looked tired after his brilliant ride, said: "I'm happy. After what I did, I hoped for more than 30 seconds on Delgado. I improvised my attack — you can't plan these things."

Chiappucci had been following me as if he was glued to my wheel. But when I attacked, he wasn't there anymore."

With an uncomfortable ride Sunday through the Massif Central and a daunting cross through the Pyrenees to come Tuesday, Chiappucci's chances of holding off the likes of Breukink, Lemond and Delgado now look very slim.

Pensec, who held the yellow jersey for two days before surrendering it to the Italian, had his final fling in front of large crowds

super-welterweight world title.

Jacquot, whose career record is now of 26 wins for 11 defeats, said before the fight he would retire this year.

"I am obviously disappointed but Norris was too strong for me," he said. "He showed that he deserved his win over Mugabi."

Jacquot briefly held the WBC super-welterweight title last year when he outpointed American Don Curry. He lost his crown to Mugabi in his first defence when he was forced to retire a few seconds into the first round with a sprained ankle.

"It was an easier fight than I expected," said Norris sitting in a corridor as he waited to pass a doping test.

"I managed to land a lot of clear shots," he said.

"I wasn't too surprised to see him fighting back," he said of his challenger, who managed to stay on his feet after suffering two knock downs in the first two rounds.

"He did display a lot of raw courage," Norris said.



Swiss customs officers applaud while the pack of the tour cyclists cross the Swiss border to join Geneva

end of the ninth stage.

E. German clubs to join Bundesliga next year

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany's soccer federation has invited East German clubs to join Bundesliga in the 1991-92 season,

a year earlier than previously agreed, because of the rapid pace of political unification.

The decision at a meeting in Frankfurt followed pressure from East Germany, which urged a rapid merger to stem a damaging exodus of its best players to wealthy West German clubs.

"Football must now adapt to the more rapid pace of political unification," Federation President Hermann Neuberger said.

East German national trainer Eduard Geyer said the move was inevitable and would be widely welcomed in East Germany.

But he added: "I am a bit worried about our coaches. I don't know if the West Germans will want us."

East German League Secretary Volker Nickchen said: "Our league has long held the view that football should not lag behind political developments."

The West German also proposed that East Germany should withdraw from qualifying matches for the 1992 European championships and Olympics.

The East German Federation has already said it might withdraw from the European championships. East Germany is due to play World Cup winners West Germany in a qualifying match in Leipzig on Nov. 21.

The two federations will discuss the future again next Thursday.

Mansell scorches to pole for British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Britain Nigel Mansell claimed his second successive pole and 14th of his career Saturday when he clocked the fastest time in final qualifying for the British Grand Prix.

Mansell, driving a Ferrari, lapped the 4.78-kilometer Silverstone Circuit in one minute 37.428 seconds to oustrip overnight leader Ayrton Senna's Friday time by six tenths of a second.

His average speed was 255.192 kph and his lap time was the third fastest recorded on the circuit.

Mansell's performance showed clearly that his Ferrari team had been able to overcome the difficulties they had experienced Friday when his engine was down on power and he angrily left the team garage without a word.

Mansell will share the front row of the grid for Sunday's race with Brazilian Ayrton Senna's McLaren. Senna was unable to improve his time Saturday in the windier and cooler conditions.

Senna's McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger was also unable to produce an improved time. He finished third-quickest overall and shares the second row of the

grid with Belgian Thierry Boutsen, driving a Williams.

Mansell's Ferrari team mate Alain Prost improved his time to move up from sixth overnight to fifth. Prost will start alongside his compatriot Jean Alesi who hurried his Ford V-8 powered Tyrrell round the track in remarkable fashion.

Mansell praised the Ferrari team for their efforts in overcoming Friday's problems to give him the power he had hoped for.

He said: "It was one of those laps where you have to give full commitment and even when you do you need everything to be all right."

"When I came to the start-finish line it was a good job I had seat belts on because I almost jumped out of the car. I couldn't believe the time."

"It was probably one of the most special laps of my whole career."

The session, which began late because of a delay during the morning free session caused by an accident involving Italian Stefano Modena's Brabham, was an exciting one right to the finish as the big crowd waited to see if Senna could overhaul Mansell's time.

Soviet grandmaster wins

MANILA (R) — Soviet grandmaster Boris Gelfand beat fellow Soviet Jaan Ehlvest on a tie-break Saturday in the 13th and final round to win the Manila World Interzonal Chess Championship.

The top 11 players in the 64-entrant, Swiss-style tournament qualify for the 1991 candidates round matches which will choose

the challenger to fight current champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union in the 1993 World Championship.

The qualifiers included India's Viswanathan Anand, who drew his final game with Soviet Vassily Ivanchuk in 12 moves, and Britain's Nigel Short who beat the white-playing Soviet Mikhail Gurevich in 42 moves.

Yesterday's | Jumble: FILMY JADED LOCKET BUBBLE

Answer: Might set off an explosion in the home—

AN OLD FLAME

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 15, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Difficult aspects in effect bring delays in the A.M. seeding obstacles and limitations in your path of practical accomplishment. Afternoon you enjoy the goodwill of influential persons.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) All kinds of new interests can be yours so make a point to be wide awake and look into them with an open mind to see where they fit into your life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to think about your business and other practical arrangement with money oriented persons and to get their support for your ambitions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A very definite opinionated and straightforward partner has some very worthwhile suggestions for you so make sure you listen to understand and follow them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your attention should be focused upon money and possessions today so look at every phase of how such interests can be improved for sometime to come.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are very much concerned today about your own personal progress and advancement and should concentrate upon upgrading wherever possible.

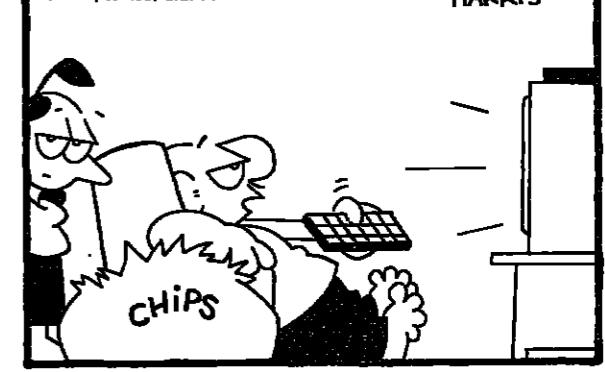
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are now able to quietly organize your most ambitious plans for the future that you can shortly bring them into the open, make a success of them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider what your most long range subjective aims have been and then consider how you can best make them an actual part of your life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about your worldly standing and your public position and just what you can do in the days ahead to make it more shining and bright.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"When I go, I want my ashes scattered over the TV."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HELAT

□ □ □

CHITH

□ □ □

GREESY

□ □ □

RIGDIF

□ □ □



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

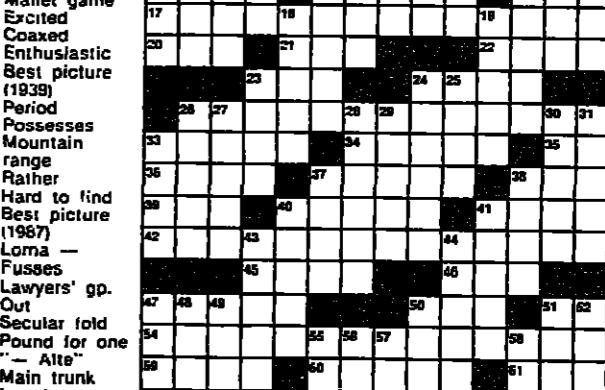
Yesterday's | Jumble: FILMY JADED LOCKET BUBBLE

Answer: Might set off an explosion in the home—

AN OLD FLAME

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Cotton type	2. Native game	3. Broads	4. Coaxed	5. Enthusiastic	6. Best picture (1938)	7. Period	8. Princesses	9. Mountain range	10. Raider	11. Hard to find	12. Bad picture (1939)	13. Loma	14. Fuses	15. Lawyers' gp.	16. Out	17. Secular fold	18. Pound for one	19. Almond	20. Main trunk	21. Inebriate	22. Best picture (1980)	23. Game guys?	24. Citrus drink	25. Theater drop	26. Topaz	27. Mixup	28. Bring up	29. Duo	30. Oil of blood	31. Christen	32. Down	33. Sheet	34. Stravinsky	35. Duration	36. S.A. region	37. Leavings	38. Crat of disgust	39. Old Eng. letter	40. Old Eng. letter	41. Confused	42. King and I	43. Gambling town	44. Escort to a seal	45. Vane letters	46. Samovar
15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65																																													

Power struggle turns Liberia into a tribal killing field

MONROVIA (R) — A battle for power between two men has turned Liberia into a tribal killing field.

With rebels pushing into Monrovia, frightened residents awake each day to find more corpses dumped in the streets.

Both the army of President Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front guerrillas run death squads executing tribal vengeance.

The victims are mainly civilians. Some bodies have been mutilated — even beheaded — as a warning to others.

They nearly all come from one of the warring tribes — Gios and Manos for the rebels, and Doe's Krahn people and Mandingos for the government.

Diplomats estimate several thousand people have been killed since Taylor invaded the Gio stronghold of Nimba county in northeast Liberia in December with a motley band of 150 men and a handful of weapons.

Doe sent his Krahn-dominated troops to crush the rebels. They killed Gios instead and looted and burned their villages. This

rekindled tribal hatred still smoldering from revenge killings in 1985 after an abortive coup by Doe's right hand man, General Thomas Quiwonka, a Gio.

The army turned Nimba into a rebel recruiting ground and Taylor's guerrillas, clad in jeans, T-shirts and red headbands, have advanced into Monrovia's suburbs ready to attack Doe's fortified executive mansion.

Similar killings have been carried out all over this besieged capital of half a million people which has been without fresh food, water, fuel, electricity and international communications for two weeks.

"People will not bury the bodies," said one Liberian as he stared at a headless corpse from a distance. "They are afraid of being linked to the rebels."

Doctors have warned Monrovia of the danger of a cholera outbreak. Diplomats from one Western embassy buried one corpse themselves on a beach outside their mission.

Doctors from the city's main John F. Kennedy Hospital tried

to find a bulldozer this week to bury 100 rotting corpses from its unrefrigerated mortuary. Nearly all had been shot.

The hospital has sent all its patients away because it has no power of water.

The sticky-sweet stench of death also lingers outside the city's last functioning hospital. It is run by Catholic missionaries with the help of Belgian surgeons from the medical relief agency Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

During the week they have operated on 50 people, mainly young civilian men, for bullet wounds.

The killing is far from one-sided. The rebels have also systematically hunted down Krahn and Mandingos, a Muslim tribe of traders and transporters who have prospered under Doe.

Reporters behind rebel lines said the guerrillas shot members of the Krahn tribe in the back and tossed their bodies into a river near Paynesville this week.

One Gio youth who has sought sanctuary in Monrovia has seen the slaughter by both sides.

BUCHAREST (R) — Organisers of Romania's biggest street protest since the December revolution vowed to call fresh demonstrations after the government rejected their demand for the release of a jailed student leader.

Romania students to call fresh protests

letter sent to government leaders:

"Munteanu represents for Romanian students the ideals for which they sacrificed themselves during the revolution of December."

Students played a leading role in the uprising and many of them were among the more than 1,000 people killed.

Meanwhile, former agents of the disbanded Securitate secret police, who sowed terror under Ceausescu, are to join Romania's new riot police and intelligence services, Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu said Friday.

Colonel-General Stanculescu said Securitate agents had been vetted at the Ministry of Defence and some had already been recruited for counter-intelligence.

"They are to carry out their duties in a peacekeeping role in the new gendarmerie and the intelligence service under the command of the Interior Ministry," Stanculescu told Reuters in an interview.

Ilieșcu summoned the miners to the capital after students and other front opponents occupied University Square for seven weeks to protest at alleged Communist influence in the government, despite the December overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Munteanu has denied government accusations that he incited opposition riots in June.

Students have accused the government of holding him as a political prisoner. They said in a

civilised world," he said.

Students marching through Bucharest were joined by crowds of middle-aged people and couples with children. Hundreds of onlookers lined the streets cheered and waved flowers.

Protesters carried pictures of Munteanu and shouted "judge the miners. The miners should be brought to court."

President Ion Ilieșcu thanked thousands of coal miners after they rampaged through Bucharest last month to crush anti-government protests. He said they had helped thwart an anti-fascist coup.

Miners beat demonstrators with coshes and pickaxes and ransacked opposition party offices.

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